Satur seeks permission to arm Bayan Muna members

Story on PAGE A2

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- **Army says it's spying on youth misbehavior**
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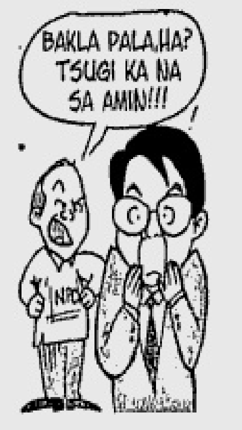
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

NPC leader hurt by Ping slur

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

FOR describing the National People's Coalition as *bakla* (neither here nor

NPC/ A21


BAKLA PALA,HA? TSUGI KA NA SA AMIN!!!
NPC

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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'Probe Team' fears axing by network

Nothing final yet, says GMA 7 official

By Alcuin Papa

THE FRUITFUL 16-year relationship between GMA 7 and the award-winning show "The Probe Team" took a sudden turn for the worse on Friday night after the television network indicated it would ax the show over an episode that featured a lifestyle check on Efraim Genuino, chair of the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

But GMA 7 chief for corporate communications Butch Raquel told the INQUIRER that nothing was final yet.

"There have been discussions with Che-Che [Lazaro] about what has happened. But things have yet to be finalized," Raquel said in a phone interview. Lazaro is the executive producer of the show.

A source involved in the show said GMA 7 vice president Marissa Flores and GMA 7 project unit manager Ricky Escudero went to the house of Lazaro in Forbes Park, Makati, on Friday night, just a few hours before Lazaro left for Boston.

The three even had dinner at around 9 p.m. before discussions about the future of the show started, according to the source who asked not to be named.

After dinner, the GMA 7 officials asked Lazaro when the last airing date of "The Probe Team" would be.

"It was all verbal and they [GMA 7 officials] said they could not work together with The Probe Team anymore. When they asked for the last airing date, they effectively served notice," the source said.

Lazaro responded that "it was not for me to say" when the last episode would be aired.

The Probe Team's contract with the broadcasting giant is due to expire in January.

Asked if the episode of the lifestyle check on Genuino prompted the axing of the show, the source said "there could be no other reason."

"The network could have waited for the expiration of the contract, but they didn't," the source

'PROBE TEAM'/ A20

GMA: Pope blessed country through me

By Volt Contreras

ROME (via PLDT)—Her statements about her political plans after meeting with Pope John Paul II were not categorical but may be the closest thing to her declaring that she could be drafted by the ruling party for the presidential election in May.

"My visit to the Pope bolsters my conviction in our public policy that we should continue doing according to the priorities my father (late President Diosdado Macapagal) told me as a public servant: 'God first, then country, then family last,'" President Macapagal-Arroyo said here Saturday.

Before Ms Macapagal embarked on her trip to the United States and Europe, her spokesperson said the President was awaiting divine guidance on whether she should reverse her pledge not to run.

The President said the Pope "blessed the country through me" at their 10-minute meeting at the Vatican during which she proudly reported to the Pontiff how the country's national policies against abortion, divorce and the death penalty had remained faithful to Catholic teachings under her watch.

"We want to pursue our goals for the country in ways that we perceive more akin to how God would want us to do it. That's the greater conviction I received after meeting again with His Holiness,"

GMA/ A8

Leading newspapers offer sober, diversified coverage

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

HELSINKI—The most newspaper literate country in the world is a small democracy in northern Europe—Finland, inhabited by five million people, merely a fraction of Metro Manila's teeming population of more than 10 million.

Finland has a stable democracy, which according to conventional wisdom, is hardly rambunctious to generate sensational news that sells newspapers.

I visited the new media building of Sanoma Publishing Corp., which publishes Helsinki Sanomat, the morning broadsheet, the largest daily paper in the Scandinavia, with a circulation of 454,707 copies on weekdays and 533, 367 on Sundays.

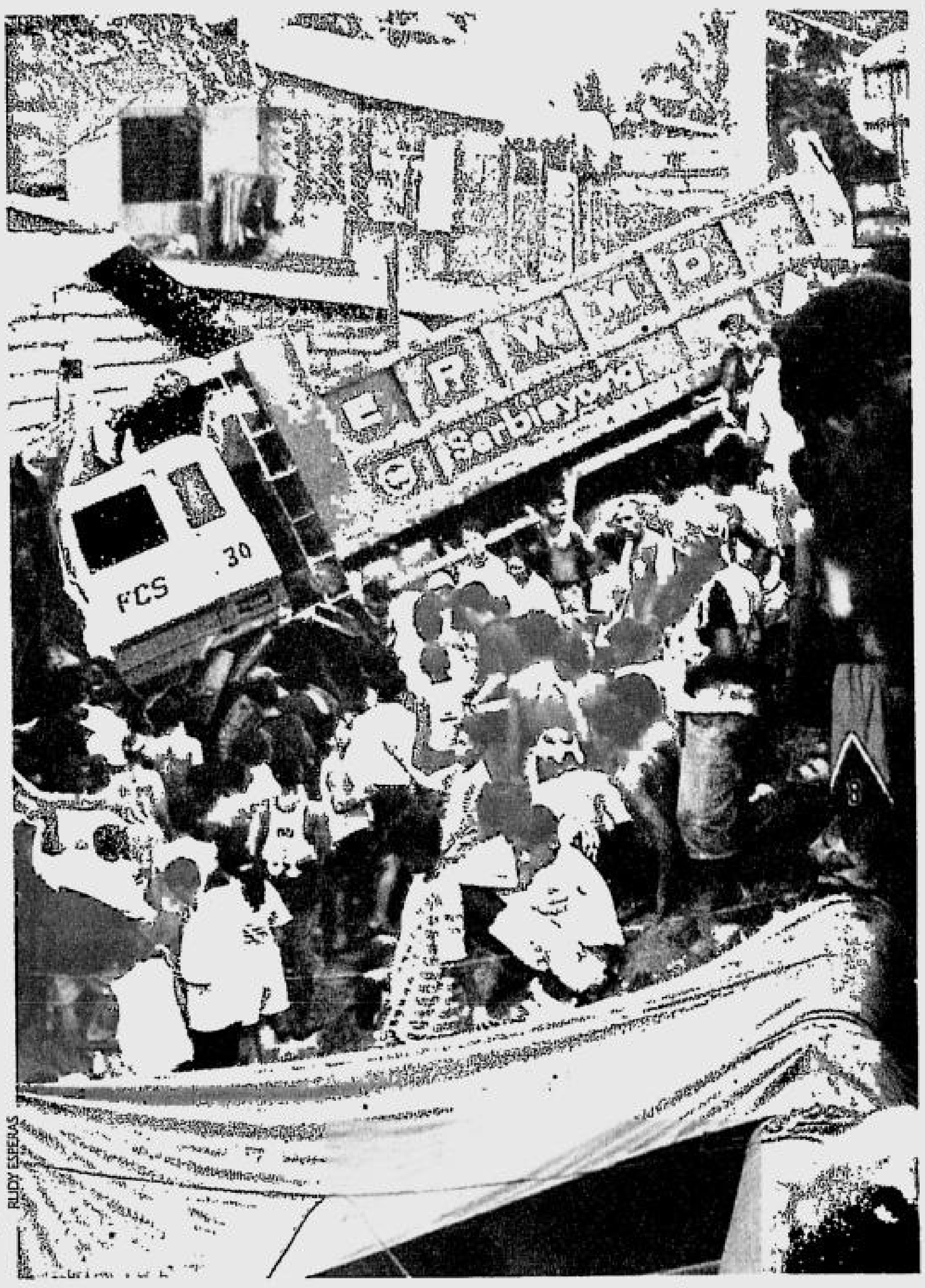
The media house is a glistening glass building—which looks like a green house. Sanomat is Finnish for "message" or news.

Glass is the building's main construction material that conserves energy. In summer, through advanced technology, glass cools the building by filtering the sunlight; in autumn and winter, it conserves heat.

The structure of the building has a symbolism. It stands for the transparency of the press in order that it can perform its function as the watchdog of society with credibility.

In Helsinki, zoning and urban planning rules forbid any building to rise taller than the tower of the 1952 Olympic Games

LEADING/ A10



RUDY ESPERAS

DEADLY DRIVE
After losing its brakes, this dump truck hit eight vehicles, fell off a bridge, and landed on a house in Barangay Payatas, Quezon City. Seven people were killed in the accident. *(Story on Metro, Page A22)*

Surfers defy travel warnings

BUTUAN CITY—Despite warnings against travel to Mindanao issued by their governments as part of precautionary measures against terrorism, foreign delegates are joining the 8th Annual International Surfing Cup on Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte.

More than 14 internationally acclaimed surfers from the United States, Japan, Australia and the Netherlands have arrived to join the four-day event that formally opened on Friday.

"Travel advisories did not affect the competition, they know Surigao is peaceful," Letty Tan, tourism assistant director for Caraga, said.

Australia, the United States, Britain, Canada and New Zealand have advised their citizens to be careful when traveling to the Philippines amid renewed threats of terrorism.

Noting that threats against Australians and Australian interests in the Philippines are high, the Australian government issued the travel warning in July, specifically instructing its citizens to defer non-essential travel to Mindanao, and consider leaving the island.

Australians were also advised against travel to the Zamboanga peninsula and the Sulu archipelago, including Basilan and Jolo islands.

Tan said the participation of the foreigners in

SURFERS/ A21

Pope lauds RP 'Church of the poor'

POPE John Paul II exhorted Filipino bishops to work for an authentic "Church of the poor" that practices a preferential but not exclusive option for the neediest in the Philippines.

The Pontiff made the remarks when he received a group of Filipino bishops on Thursday at Castelgandolfo, one of the papal residences in Rome, according to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Led by incoming Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, the bishops of Lucena, Infanta, Ozamiz, Iligan, Marawi and Zamboanga cities presented the "vision-mission statement" of the Church in the Philippines that read "Following the way of our Lord, we opt to be a Church of the poor."

The CBCP said the Pope lauded the statement, quoting him as saying the Church of the poor must be one that is a "community of faith that embraces and practices the evangelical spirit of poverty, which combines detachment from possessions with a profound trust in the Lord as the sole source of salvation."

"We do well to note that this preference for the poor is in no way exclusive

POPE/ A20

ERIK ARAZAS

INDAY'S WAKE
Relatives and friends pay their last respects to legendary talk show host Lourdes "Inday Badiday" Carvajal, whose body lies at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, Makati.

'Don't make a heroine out of Kris'

Counselor cautions militant women groups

By Pennie Azarcon-Dela Cruz
Sunday Inquirer Magazine

"DON'T make a heroine out of Kris Aquino."

This is the advice of Dr. Sylvia Estrada-Claudio, a psychologist, professional counselor and one of the founders of the Women's Crisis Center, to comrades in the feminist movement who have made Aquino a rallying point for their crusade against violence to women.

The actress and television game show host went public last week with details of her extramarital relationship with comedian-politician Joey Marquez, including alleged incidents of physical battery and psychological torture, and being infected with a sexually transmitted disease.

Various women's groups have lauded the move, saying it has broken the "culture of silence" which, they said, abetted violence against women in intimate relationships.

Aquino's revelations should fast-track the passage of a bill against domestic violence that had been passed by the House but was still languishing in the Senate, they said.

They also pointed out that former President Corazon Aquino herself had counseled her aggrieved daughter to use the experience "to help other women."

But Claudio, chair of the board of directors of Likhaan, a women's health NGO, cautioned against putting "too much pressure" on the 32-year-old actress.

"It would be unfair to let Kris carry the burden of putting violence against women on the political agenda," she said. "She has enough on her shoulders right now."

Claudio stressed that Aquino should not be made to assume "the added risk of disappointing the women's movement, should she decide to go back to Marquez."

The psychologist explained: "Like other women in similar situations, Kris has to [see for] herself that men like Marquez will not change. She has to learn things at her own pace. People need to

DON'T/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/29/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Satur seeks arms to defend followers

By Carlito Pablo

FOLLOWING recent killings of Bayan Muna organizers and sympathizers, members of the party-list organization are demanding that they be issued firearms for self-defense and permits to carry them.

"These killings must stop!" said Rep. Satur Ocampo, noting that the list of murdered Bayan Muna supporters has risen to 35.

Last week, four BM youth activists in Compostela Valley were found dead after they were reportedly abducted by military intelligence agents.

"We have to think of ways to defend ourselves effectively," said Ocampo, one of three BM representatives in Congress.

The organization has "bought so many caskets and embalmed so many bodies of followers," Ocampo said, that the members "would soon be compelled to arm themselves."

Military officials have tagged the left-leaning group as a legal front of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and consistently denied responsibility for the killings.

Ocampo said BM "security elements" should be allowed to carry firearms to "protect their organizers," since the government could not guarantee such a protection.

"What can we do, when (those) mandated to uphold the law are the ones being suspected of these dastardly acts," Ocampo said.

He noted that the Philippine National Police had yet to issue firearm permits to security men detailed to him and the two other BM representatives, Crispin Beltran and Lisa Maza.

"There are forces out there that seek to undermine the democratic space opened to progressive forces in the legal parliamentary arena," he said. "This is being done in the most brutal fashion by abducting, torturing and killing our supporters."

Bayan Muna scored the highest vote for a party-list group in the 2001 elections, which might be taken as proof that the Left has an extensive mass base nationwide.

Ocampo, Beltran and Maza have filed Resolution No. 1329 calling for a House probe into the killing of BM youth activists Jonathan Benaro, Marjorie Reynoso, Lito Doydoy and Ramon Regase in Compostela Valley. Last week, Ocampo went to the province to investigate the circumstances around the incident.

The victims' bodies, all bearing stab and gunshot wounds and signs of torture, were found in a quarry on Sept. 23, four days after their abduction.

Ocampo warned: "These killings only increase serious discontent in the legal system and push more and more people to take to the hills and resort to arms to fight for their rights."

OCAMPO

Top US firm eyes P4-B Armed Forces upgrade plan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

US-BASED Lucent Technologies, one of the world's leading providers of military communications equipment, has offered to undertake the P4-billion modernization program of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The upgrading of AFP's communication facilities is part of the military's long-delayed modernization program which has been hobbled by financial problems.

In a statement, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she has asked Lucent to formalize its offer so it could be subjected to a "Swiss challenge," where other suppliers and contractors could either match or top an unsolicited proposal for a government contract.

Ms Macapagal met with Lucent officials on the last day of her working visit to New York City last week where she addressed the United Nations General Assembly. The President said she met with top Lucent executives because the US firm was one of the biggest investors in the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal said the "Swiss challenge" would enable the government to get the best deals possible for its big-ticket projects, particularly those involving build-operate-and-transfer (BOT) projects.

The Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project was taken over six years ago by the Piatco-Fraport group through the "Swiss challenge" when it offered "a better deal" than Asia's Emerging Dragons Corp., a consortium formed by local taipans, which submitted the original proposal for the terminal project.

The project, which has been completed, is currently embroiled in legal cases and ownership squabbles, however.

Blackout mars Gloria's visit to Rome

By Volt Contreras

ROME (via PLDT)—What began as a spiritually enlightening sojourn for the First Family and the presidential entourage here literally ended in the dark after a power blackout plunged the Vatican into darkness yesterday.

The power outage, which paralyzed the city-state, rudely disrupted the otherwise smooth but hectic schedule of the Philippine delegation which had accompanied President Macapagal-Arroyo to her audience with Pope John Paul II.

At the Hotel Torino where most Filipino reporters were billeted, the faint light from cellphones served as the only guide for guests to negotiate the stairways.

The pressure for journalists to meet their deadlines was high at the press center as early as 6 a.m. (12 noon in Manila) as fax transmissions and e-mail connections could not be made.

The President's scheduled meeting with members of the local Filipino community was also canceled after the city's railway system was paralyzed and could not take the Rome-based Filipinos to the venue.

The power interruption prompted the media delegation to check out of the hotel early to catch the presidential plane at the Leonardo da Vinci Airport.

The President was scheduled to leave for Paris at 5:30 p.m. but her entire delegation was prepared to leave as early as 11:30 a.m.

The blackout took place ironically after the city held what is locally known as a "white night," or the equivalent of Manila's "midnight madness sale."

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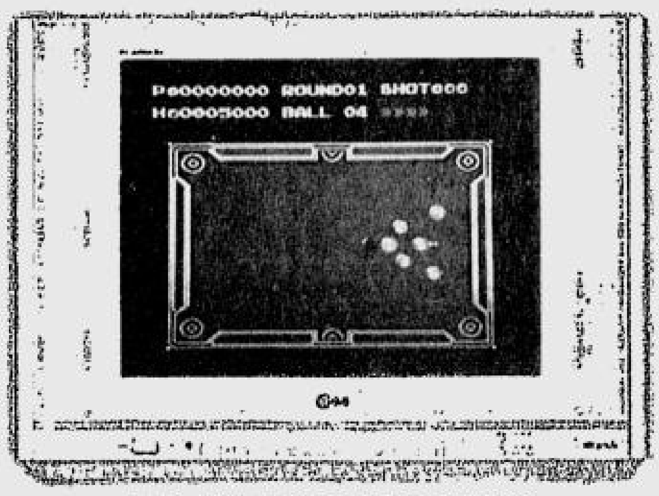

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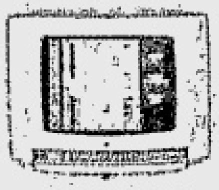

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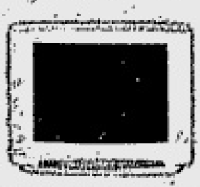

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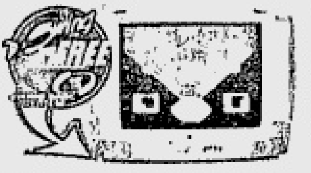

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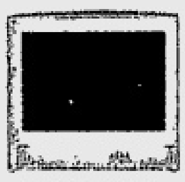

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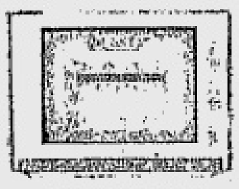

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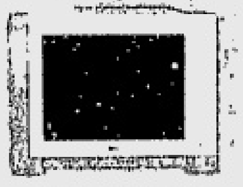

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Private employees to be tested for drugs

By Jerome Aning

THE GOVERNMENT has taken its war against illegal drugs to the workplace by requiring all private sector companies to test their officials and employees for drug abuse.

The Department of Labor and Employment has issued guidelines directing private firms to formulate company policies and programs to achieve a drug-free workplace.

The guidelines, contained in Department Order No. 53, cover all private sector establishments, as well as contractors and concessionaires.

The formulation of the policies is mandatory for all firms employing 10 or more workers. Those employing less than 10 are also encouraged to do the same.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas issued the guidelines in accordance with Republic Act No. 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, and its implementing rules and regulations.

Any officer or employee who uses, possesses, distributes, sells or attempts to sell, tolerates or transfers dangerous drugs shall be subject to the pertinent provisions of RA 9165.

Those found positive of dangerous drugs shall be dealt with administratively in accordance with the provisions of Article 282 of the Labor Code, and also under RA 9165.

DOLE gave management and labor representatives six months to jointly prepare policies and programs to prevent and punish drug abuse in the workplace.

Sto. Tomas said the programs and policies against drug abuse should include advocacy, education and training; drug testing programs for offices and employees; treatment, rehabilitation and referral; and monitoring and evaluation.

The guidelines require employers to ensure that the policies are disseminated to all officers and employees and to maintain the confidentiality of information relating to drug tests or the identification of drug users in the workplace, subject to the provisions of the law.

The policies on drug prevention shall be made an integral part of the company's occupational safety and health and related workplace programs, the DOLE order said.

In establishments were workers are organized, the anti-drug policies shall be included as part of their collective bargaining agreements.

Sto. Tomas said labor unions and other workers' groups should take an active role in educating and training their members on drug abuse prevention and control.

She ordered labor inspectors in DOLE's regional offices to monitor the compliance by private firms with RA 9165 and D.O. 53. But the DOLE, she said, may delegate the monitoring to local government units.

Private firms may seek assistance in formulating their policies from the DOLE tripartite task force chaired by the department's undersecretary for worker's protection and welfare, through the Occupational Safety and Health Center, which heads the task force's technical working group.

Parañaque case spotlights cops' role in abductions

By Alcuin Valle Papa

EVIDENCE of police involvement in kidnappings just got stronger after the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) group filed kidnapping and robbery charges against two police officers and four alleged cops for the abduction of a businessman in Parañaque City.

Senior Supt. Alan Purisima, Pacer chief, identified the two police officers as Supt. Manuel Vidania and PO2 Michael Adrid, both of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AID-SOTF).

The four others were identified only as Dave, James, Ruel and Dennis, all alleged members of AID-SOTF.

Also included in the charges filed last week at the Department of Justice were two civilians identified as Antonio Bernado Sr. and his son, Bernardo Jr., both of Barangay Habay, Bacoor, Cavite.

Purisima said the eight were involved in the kidnapping of Rafael Decena on Sept. 19.

Decena's wife Emily reportedly paid P1 million for his release the following day.

Decena's neighbor in Barangay Niog, Bacoor, Cavite, Juanito Hipe, allegedly instigated the kidnapping outside the Uniwide Coastal Mall in Parañaque.

Purisima's men arrested Hipe at his house on Sept. 22.

Under interrogation, Hipe admitted that he worked for Bernardo Sr., said to be a former policeman and subordinate of Vidania.

Hipe reportedly pointed to the involvement of Vidania, Adrid, the Bernardos and the four others in the kidnapping.

He said he saw a blindfolded Decena brought to the office of Vidania where the police colonel himself allegedly negotiated the ransom with the victim.

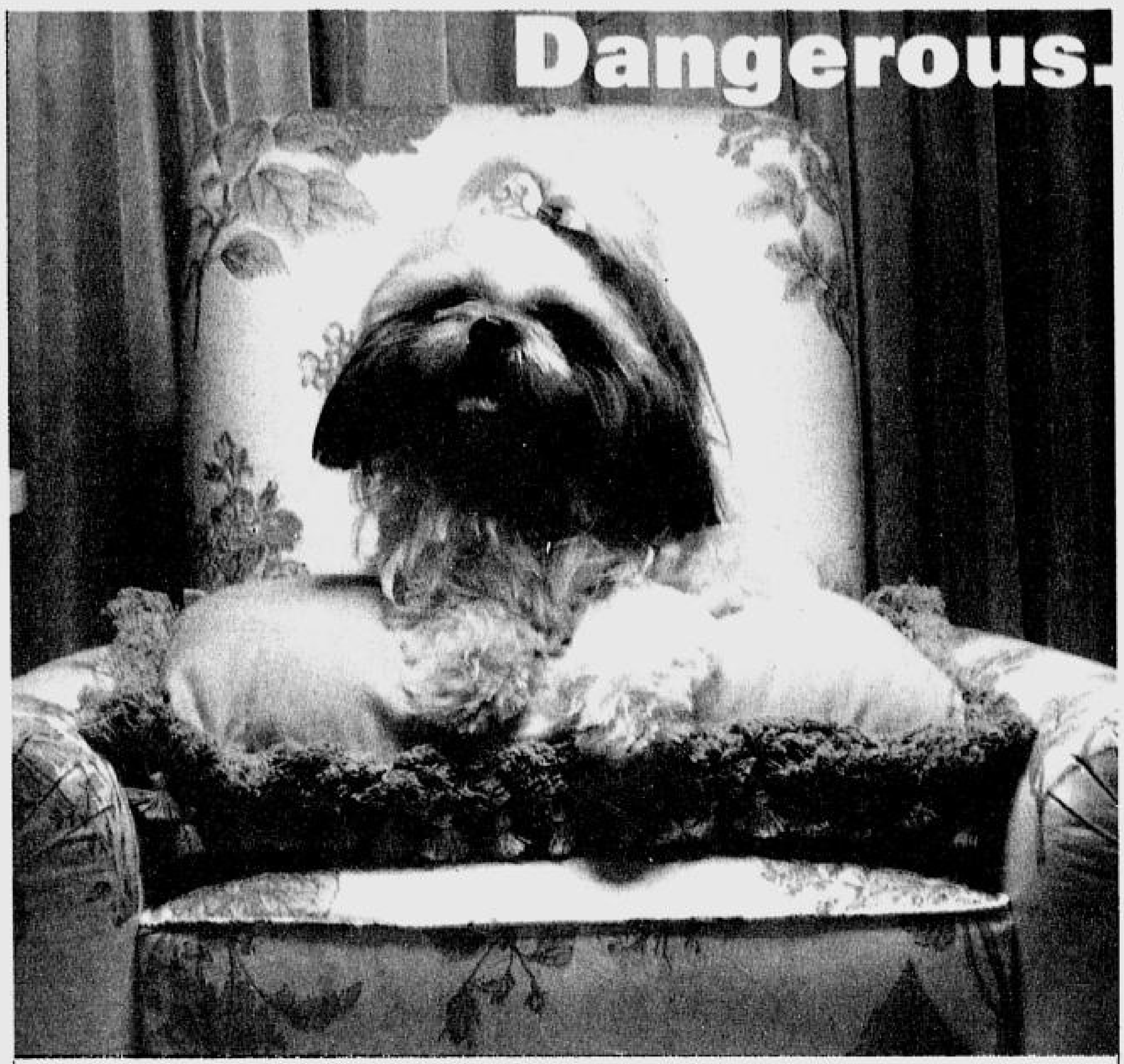
Purisima said the kidnapping stemmed from Decena's request that Hipe vacate a piece of land he had been occupying that belonged to the businessman.

This, Purisima said, made Hipe angry and led to his plotting the kidnapping of the businessman.

Charges against Hipe have been filed.

Purisima said they would arrest Vidania, Adrid and the others as soon as warrants of arrest were issued against them.

"We have requested the AID-SOTF to take these officers into their custody pending the issuance of the warrants," Purisima said.



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‘Gov’t men need not meet at the beach’

"GOVERNMENT seminars need not entail the bringing along of a beach umbrella and sunblock."

A ranking leader in the House thus urged national government agencies to exercise prudence in spending for seminars and trainings.

For a start, Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur) would like them to refrain from holding these events in posh hotels, resorts or spas.

Andaya, chair of the House committee on appropriations, expressed his concern after the national government proposed a P2.1-billion training and seminar budget for 2004.

He noted that this was P300 million higher than this year's budget of P1.8 billion.

"Nothing in the government rule book says that for proper absorption of knowledge, training should be held near a white-sand beach," Andaya said.

It is common knowledge that seminars and trainings are used by many people in government service as excuses to go on junkets paid for with taxpayers' money. Hence, the joke that these events are really R&R (rest and recreation) outings.

Andaya said the "rule of proximity" should guide government offices in determining locations for their trainings and seminars: "The nearer, the better."

In fact, he said, the government owns several facilities that could be used for the purpose, often for much less than commercial venues. These facilities should be the first ones considered, he maintained. *Carlito Pablo*

NEW ENVOY TO LAOS
Ambassador Antonio Cabangon-Chua (right) presents his credentials to Vice President Chommaly Sayasone of the Lao People's Democratic Republic recently. Aside from strengthening Lao-Philippine ties, Chua, a successful businessman, was instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into areas where both countries could enter into bilateral commercial and technological partnerships.

Bohol has rich deposits, says DOST

ASIDE from its awe-inspiring Chocolate Hills, the province of Bohol may also be rich in mineral resources, according to the Department of Science and Technology.

The DOST said geologic exploration studies in the island's northwestern section indicated the province has a strong potential for full scale copper and gold mining operations.

"Bohol's northwest area has an attractive potential copper-gold resource as shown by the geologic exploration, mapping and sampling project focused on the province's southeast ophiolite complex," said the DOST's Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development.

In an article posted on the DOST Website, the PCIERD said the geological survey on Bohol was undertaken because of the difference, or heterogeneity, of its rock properties with the rocks of neighboring islands.

"Bohol became the subject of geologic study because of its lithological (rocks present) and structural heterogeneity along with the neighboring islands of Masbate, Samar, Leyte, Cebu, Negros and Panay," the PCIERD said.

Based on the study of the rock properties, Bohol was found to have potential gold and silver deposits. *Norman Bordadora*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 29, 2003
Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

1st Reading: Dn 7:9-14
Gospel: Jn 1:47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming, he said of him, "Here comes an Israelite, a true one; there is nothing false in him." Nathanael asked him, "How do you know me?" And Jesus said to him, "Before Philip called you, you were under the fig tree and I saw you."

Nathanael answered, "Master, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" But Jesus replied, "You believe because I said: 'I saw you under the fig tree.' But you will see greater things than that.

Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Commentary

"Truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." Brother Luke, a La Sallian brother from Vietnam, told me one day why he has a special devotion to the angels. Way back, when he was still in the minor seminary, one day he had to cross a swollen river. Being a good swimmer, he thought that he could make it easily. But when he was already in the middle of the river, the current became very strong and he was carried by it. In those moments of panic, of fear, of losing strength, he called his guardian angel to help him. Again, he surfaced on the river and with a newfound strength swam using the back stroke till he reached the other side of the river to safety. Since then, he was convinced that guardian angels are there to help us. Nowadays, angels are pictured whether in painting or in sculpture as little children with cute wings. But in the biblical writings, angels are pictured as adults. And all of them are messengers. That is the meaning in Greek of the word angelos: messenger of good news, messenger of power and messenger of healing. Angels are spiritual beings but many times the angels that come to us are in flesh and blood. There are persons who come to our lives and bring to us a message from God. We too can be angels to one another, we can bring God's message of love, of light and of life.

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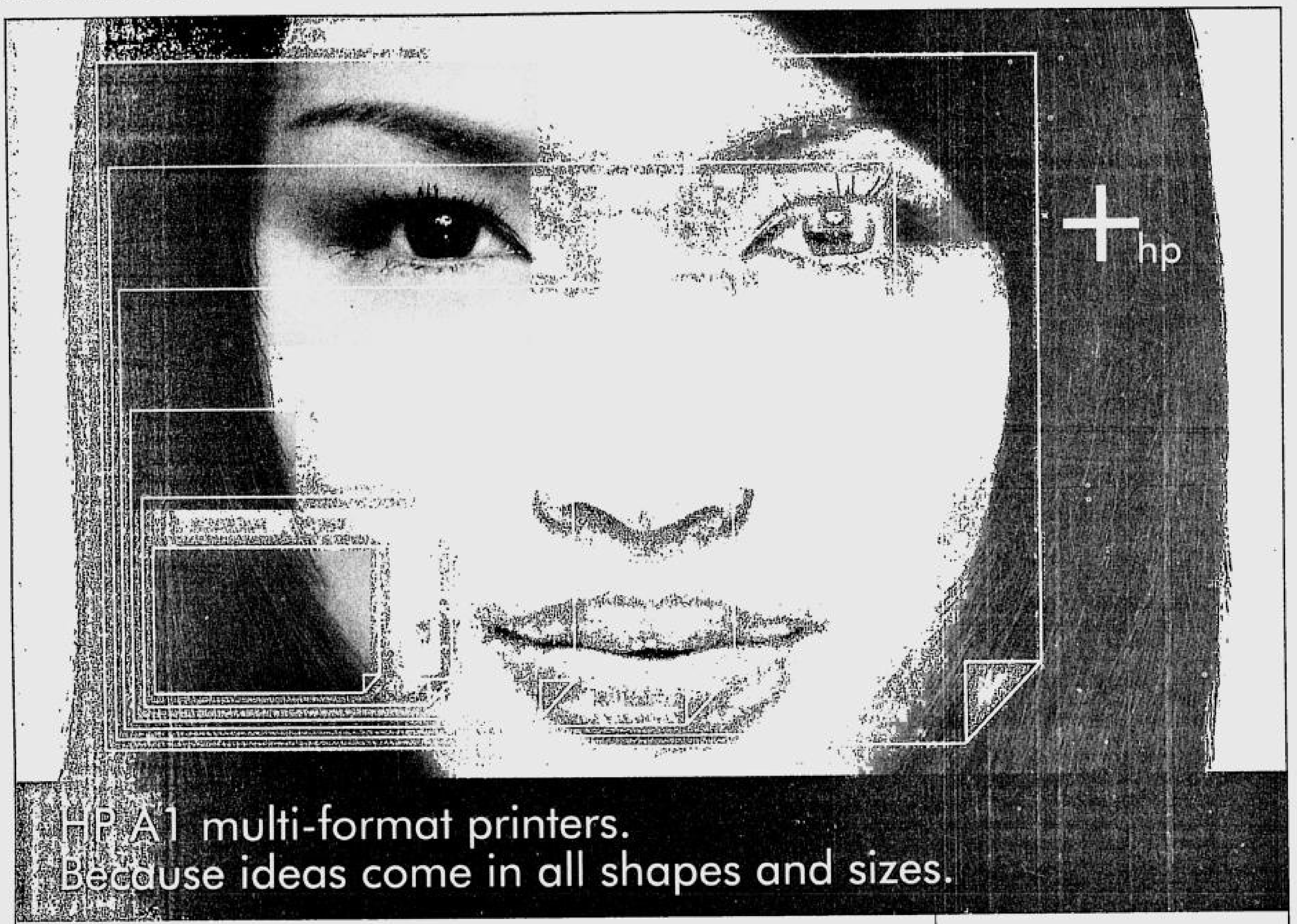
By R. B. Vera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Bar examinees take ethics test amid scam

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

IN AN ironic twist, would-be lawyers yesterday took the bar examinations on Legal Ethics amid the raging controversy over last Sunday's leak of the Mercantile Law exam questions.

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, a law professor at San Sebastian College, said bar examinees who took advantage of the leakage in the Sept. 21 exams were starting out in the legal profession "on the wrong foot."

"They do not deserve to become lawyers," said Rodriguez, also a former law dean.

The Supreme Court said it would investigate the leakage, the second after a similar incident in 1979.

The 5,455 bar examinees this year trooped yesterday to the De La Salle University campus on Taft Ave., Manila, for the fourth straight Sunday to take the exams on Remedial Law and Legal Ethics, two of the seven subjects in the rigorous bar exams which started Sept. 7.

Remedial Law, which has the most weight in the exams at 20 percent, covers court rules and procedures, while Legal Ethics, which only accounts for five percent of the exams, covers the Code of Professional Responsibility for lawyers and how it is applied in given situations.

"Legal Ethics examination is probably the easiest part of the bar exams and has the least weight but it is the most important because it is a test of character," he said.

Rodriguez said cheating in the bar exams is "one of the highest forms of dishonesty" and goes against the letter and spirit of the Code of Professional Responsibility which states that lawyers should not commit any unlawful, dishonest and deceitful acts.

"They aren't lawyers yet, and imagine what kind of lawyers they would become if they passed the bar through deceit and dishonesty," Rodriguez said.

The Supreme Court has nullified the Mercantile Law exam given last Sept. 21 and ordered a reexamination on Oct. 4 after Justice Jose Vitug, chair of the 2003 bar exams, confirmed that 13 of the 20 test questions were leaked to some examinees.

Yesterday was supposed to be last day of the bar exams. The exams for Remedial Law and Legal Ethics started at 8 a.m. and lasted till 4 p.m.

Some examinees had branded as unfair to those who did not cheat the decision of the SC for a repeat exam on Mercantile Law but opted to concede to save the integrity of the bar exams.

Senate sets hearing on Nani case

THE SENATE will reopen on Oct. 1 its inquiry into allegations that former Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez extorted $2 million from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez in conn[illegible] power plant project.

The Senate c[illegible]ttee on government corporations and pu[illegible] enterprises has sought the issuance of subpoenas to Perez, his brother-in-law, Ramon Arceo, and his associate, investment banker Ernest Escaler, to ensure their appearance at the Senate hearing.

Perez's wife, Rosario, will no longer be called to testify, according to committee chair Sen. John Osmeña last week.

Osmeña said the Oct. 1 hearing would be the last of his committee's inquiry into the alleged anomalous contract of Argentine firm Industrias Metalurgica Pescarmona SA (Impsa) to rehabilitate the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydroelectric power plant in Laguna.

Deposed President Joseph Estrada had testified in 2001 that Jimenez had offered him a $14-million bribe to approve the Impsa project.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson claimed that Perez had received $2 million of the $14-million alleged bribe.

The Committee decided to reopen the inquiry after Sen. Serge Osmeña III last month provided the Senate with copies of documents from Swiss authorities investigating Perez for alleged money laundering. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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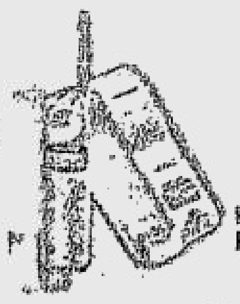
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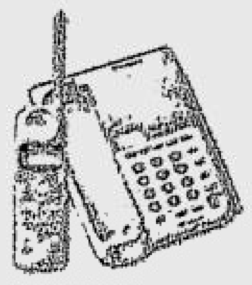
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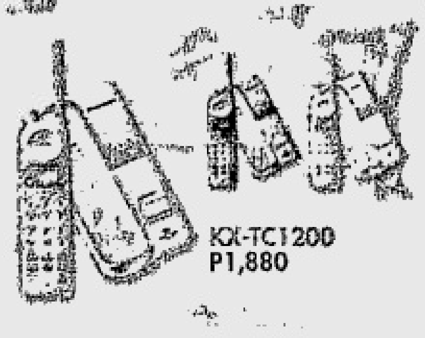
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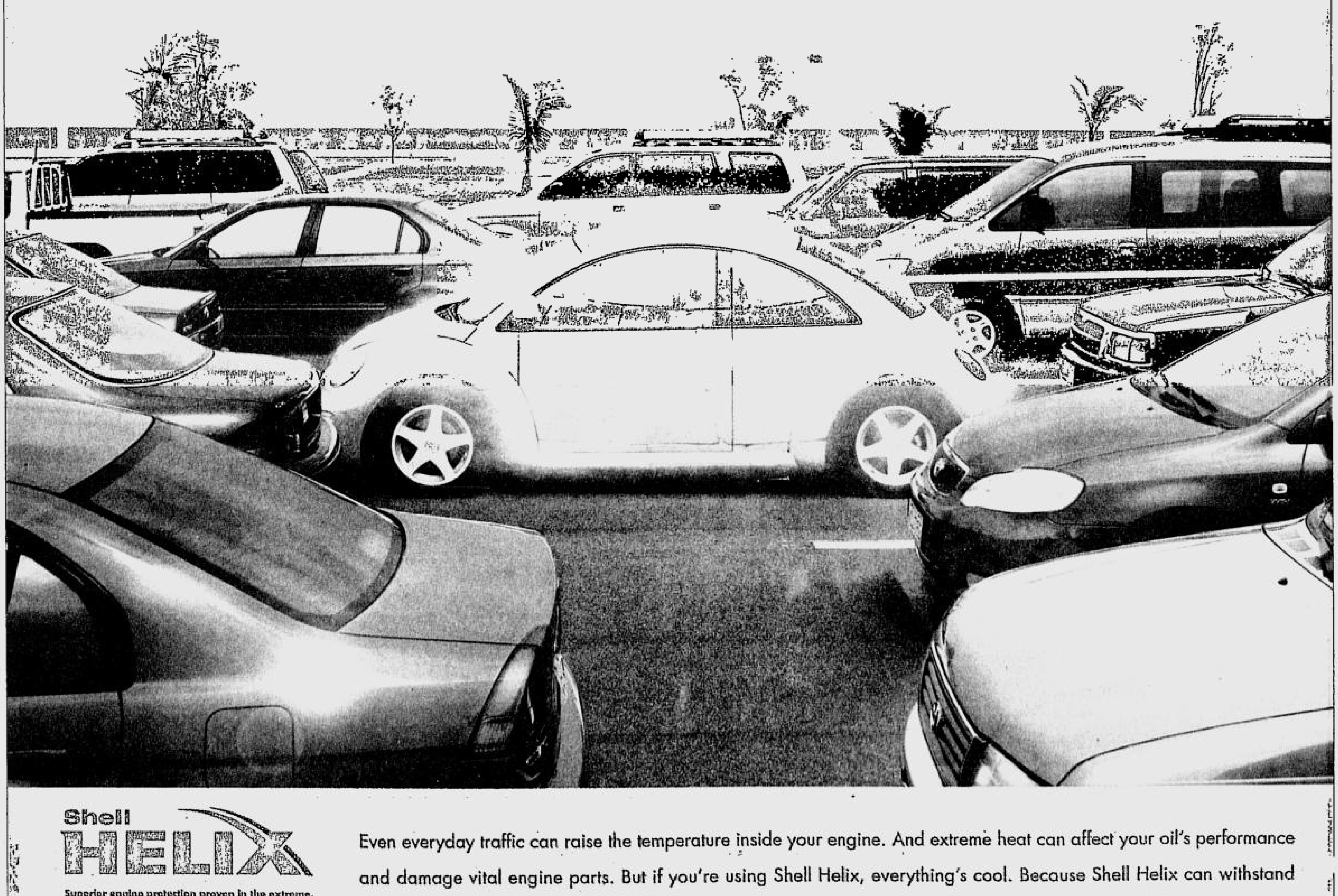

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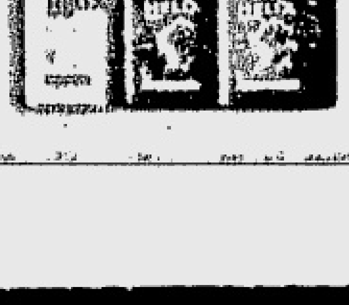

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Absentee voters could make or break '04 poll bets, Migrante says

THE MORE than 200,000 Filipino registered voters abroad could make up the decisive swing vote for a national candidate in the 2004 elections.

"With the last three days for registration, we are confident our overseas compatriots will reach the 250,000 mark. This will make the migrants a strong voting force in next year's elections that will make or unmake a President or a senator in a tight race," said John Monterona, Migrante spokesperson.

The Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat reported that as of Sept. 24, only 219,722 of the estimated seven million migrant Filipinos had registered to vote in the May 2004 elections.

"Based on the 2001 election results, at the very least, the overseas workers could affect the rankings of the eighth down to the 12th placer," Monterona said.

A multi-party presidential race would also be close, Monterona said, and the votes of the migrants would come into significant play.

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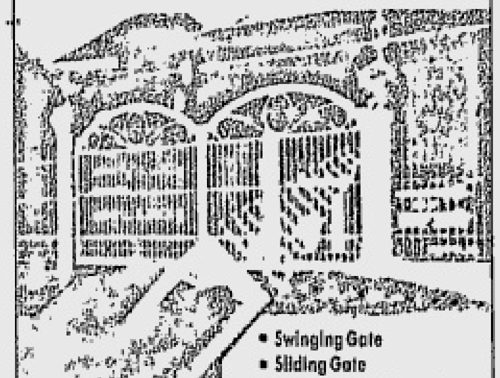

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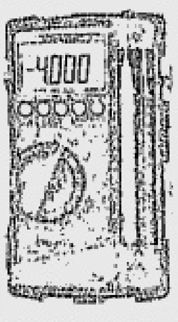

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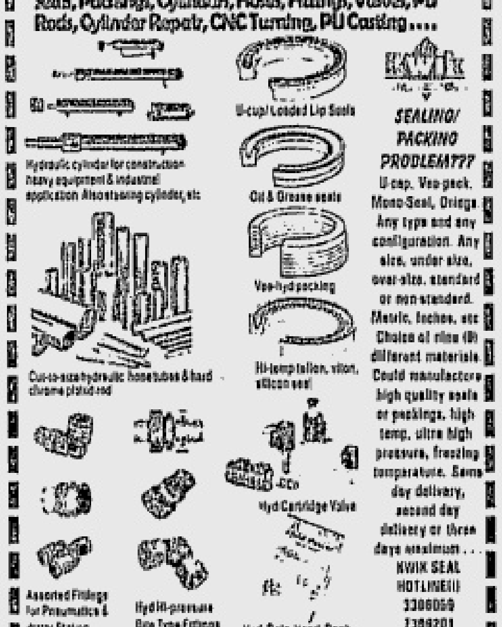

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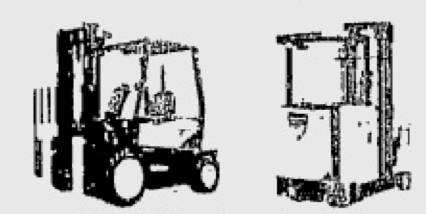

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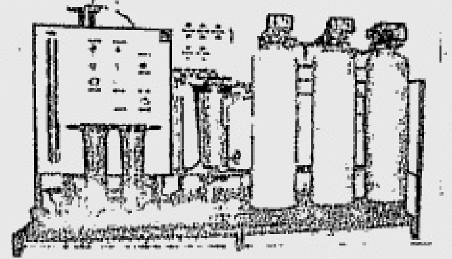

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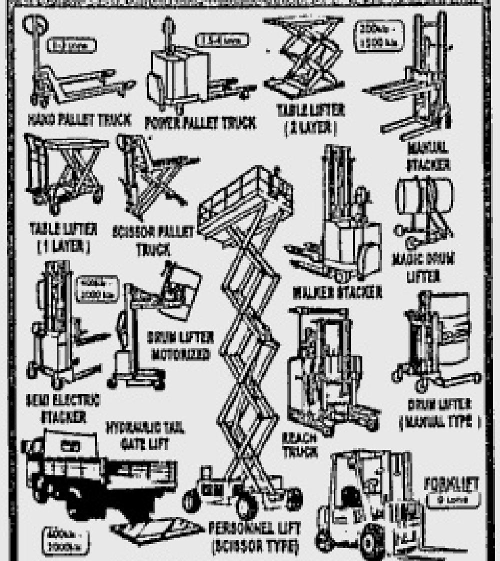

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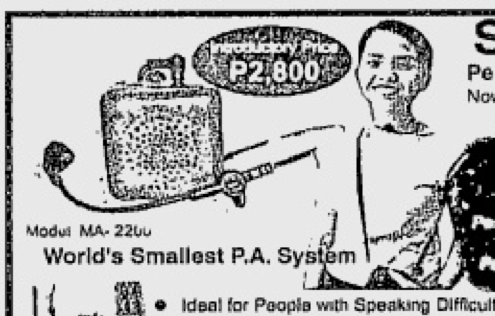

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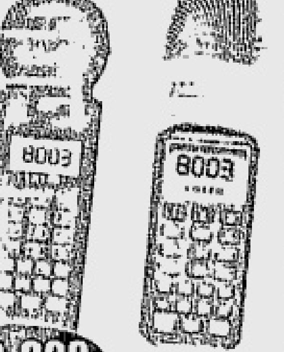

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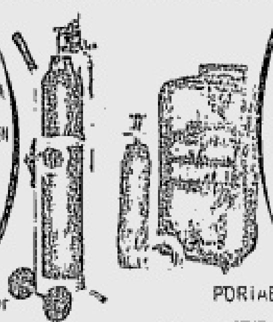

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GMA: Pope blessed country ...

From page A1

she told reporters at a media briefing.

Ms Macapagal acknowledged before reporters that the Pope was "a very inspiring presence in our life, in my personal life and the life of our nation."

Precedent

She made the remarks before her presidential adviser on ecclesiastical affairs, Dodie Limcaoco, told reporters that should she make a major political decision after this trip to the Vatican, it would be with precedent.

While saying that "politics was not overtly discussed" in the President's meeting with the Pope, Limcaoco drew reporters' attention to the fact that it was immediately after seeing the Pontiff in Rome in October 2000 that Ms Macapagal, then Vice President and concurrent social welfare secretary, signaled her break from the Cabinet amid mounting civil society efforts to pressure then President Joseph Estrada to resign.

Ms Macapagal then went straight from the airport to a Mass at the Edsa Shrine organized by the political opposition, Limcaoco recalled.

"And so really, events that come after a visit to the Pope are often attributable to the discernment (the visitor achieves after the encounter)," Limcaoco said.

"It may continue to contribute to her continuing attempt to discern what is right," he said when asked by a reporter whether the meeting dwelt on the President's political plans.

In her audience with the Pope at the latter's private library in the Apostolic Palace, Ms Macapagal said the Holy Father was told of how her administration's public policies remained "in accordance with important doctrines of the Church."

Natural family planning

She mentioned her administration's adherence to the natural family planning method, its opposition to proposed legislation legalizing abortion and divorce, and the current moratorium on the death penalty.

Malacañang has been under pressure from a number of civil society and business groups to adopt a more effective birth control program in the face of a booming population and sluggish economy. The rise in criminality has also sparked renewed calls for the government to re-impose the death penalty.

In an interview with the Vatican Television at her Royal Suite at the St. Regis Grand Hotel at the Vatican, the President said "83 percent of Filipinos are baptized as Roman Catholics, that's why they love and revere the Pope and consider him the greatest moral authority in the world."

She said the Holy Father was aware that "we are the third largest Catholic country in the world and the biggest in Asia."

She said the Pope was able to bounce back after an intestinal illness that forced him to cancel his appointments two days before her visit. "This is a good sign and shows how important the Philippines is to the Catholic hierarchy."

"We talked about me being the second woman President of the country and about President Corazon Aquino and I both being devout Catholics," Ms Macapagal said at the media briefing.

"The Pope loves the Filipinos," she said, "especially because Pope John Paul II had his biggest audience by far in 1995 when he visited Manila for the World Youth Day that gathered some five million Catholics in Luneta."

PRESIDENT Macapagal is received by Pope John Paul II.
PCPO-MALACAÑANG

"The Pope is sending the message of love and the message about praying for peace in Mindanao," the President said, adding that he was "aware of our peace efforts" in the South.

The resumption of the government's peace negotiations with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front dominated the agenda of the UN leg of the President's trip to the United States and Europe.

The Rome chapter, though, has taken on a more family-oriented flavor for Ms Macapagal rather than the seriousness of state affairs.

She suggested that history repeated itself as far as her family's experiences in the Vatican were concerned. She was then pregnant with youngest son Dato when then Pope Paul VI blessed her unborn son, Ms Macapagal recalled. Now Pope John Paul II blessed Dato's unborn child with wife, Kakay.

The Pope and the President also exchanged gifts. She gave him an antique altar piece from Bohol featuring the Blessed Virgin, while the 83-year-old Pope gave her a Marian-inspired bass relief.

Before leaving for Paris, the President's family and delegation heard a concelebrated Mass led by former Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, who was among the 30 Filipino bishops currently at the Vatican. The Mass was held at the Ponficio Colegio Filipino inside the Holy City.

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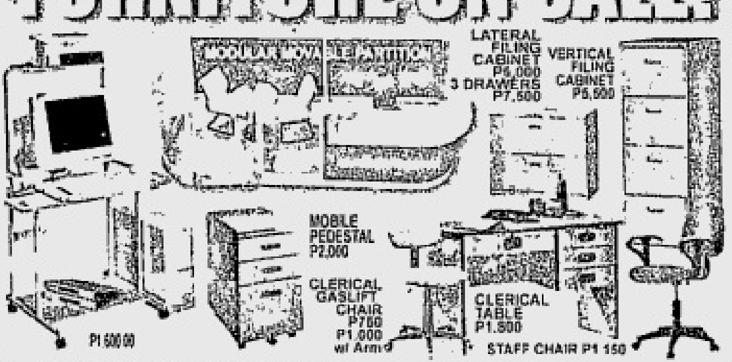

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DAY 04 SEOUL (B,L,D) AFTER BREAKFAST, BACK TO SEOUL. CITY TOUR - KYUNGBOK PALACE, FOLKLORE MUSEUM, BLUE HOUSE AND WORLD CUP MAIN STADIUM AFTERNOON PROCEED TO EVERLAND THEME PARK WITH BIG 5 TICKET
DAY 05 DEPARTURE (B,L) AFTER BREAKFAST AT A LOCAL RESTAURANT TIME FOR YOUR OWN LEISURE
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Leading newspapers offer sober ...

From page A1

complex, and the average height of buildings here is five levels. There are no skyscrapers.

The Sonoma building has nine floors above ground and three below. It is home to three newspapers—the morning daily Helsinki Sanomat, the afternoon tabloid Ilta-Sanomat, and the business paper Taloussanomat. The tabloid prints around 240,000 copies and the business paper, 445,000.

Helsinki Sanomat is an independent paper, published in Finnish. It has been privately owned since it was first published in 1889. Like some Philippine newspapers in the early American period, Helsinki Sanomat identified itself with the Finnish independence movement, and acted as its cutting edge.

It publishes four editions, and has hardly any competition in Finland, following the trend in newspaper publishing in Western democracies dominated by single newspapers in many big cities, like the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and Melbourne's Age.

There are fewer newspapers in the big cities today, but Manila is an exception with its 10 broadsheets. But the marvel is that with a population of more than 10 million, the Philippines has one of the lowest newspaper readerships in the world and the growth of newspaper readership has been shrinking over several generations.

In contrast to the 550,000 daily circulation of Helsinki Sanomat, in a nation of five million people, the 10 Manila broadsheets combined do not print as much.

Great readers

The Finns are great newspaper readers. This fact explains why with five million people, the Helsinki Sanomat, is the leading newspaper in circulation in the Nordic countries. In 1996, there were 226 newspapers in Finland, 56 of them dailies.

Finland has the third largest circulation of dailies in the world after Norway and Japan. According to the latest survey, 77.8 percent of the Finns and 77.7 percent of Swedes read newspapers five to seven times a week.

The survey shows that the average European Union readership is 65 percent. In Greece, 30.5 percent of the total population do not read newspapers. In Spain, 23.4 percent, and in Portugal, 25.5 percent. In Finland, only 0.9 percent do not read newspapers, the lowest in the European Union.

The Finns contradict the trend of media exposure in many countries. In developed countries, TV viewing has increased (I suppose this is also the trend in the Philippines), while reading has decreased. Since the introduction of TV in the 1950s, the number of newspapers, periodicals and books published in Finland has increased and so has their readership.

In most other countries, TV viewing has increased. In Finland, however, there has been a slow increase in TV viewing. Since the early 1960s, the average viewing time in Finland is among the lowest in the industrial countries.

The Americans watch 2.5 times as much TV as the Finns, and the British and Japanese and Japanese about double the Finns' two hours a day. This is despite the fact that in Finland, the number of TV sets per family is among the highest in the world.

The appetite of the Finns in reading published material is so huge that their libraries are always full of people—not empty spaces lined with books like tombstones, begging to be read.

Innovations

Helsinki Sanomat defies the traditional format of the front page. It has innovated by devoting its front page to display advertising, for example, the ad for the Habitat exhibition—called Habitaire—now under way in Helsinki.

The first hard news page is Page 3, which looks like the front page of any metropolitan paper. Sanomat's editors explained that the paper can afford this innovation because 90 percent of the copies are distributed by subscription.

Thus, it does not depend on street sales for circulation and it does not have to resort to sensational news on the front page with eye-grabbing headlines.

The result is a sober paper that does not excite the readers, frays their nerves, or pander to the vulgar taste of the gallery always lusting for blood.

The trend is that most advertising go to the leading metropolitan newspaper. Part of the explanation is that the Finns are not an excitable but a sober people whose political culture does not provide the spawning ground for sensational news.

The papers scarcely carry stories about corruption or scandals—the staple of the Philippine press. According to the 2000 and 2001 Transparency International, Finland ranked first on their list of least corrupt countries in the world.

In 2001, Finland was given the index of 9.9 on the Transparency International list of least corrupt countries in the world on the scale, which ranges from 0 to 10. The survey covered more than 120 countries, including the Philippines. Finland has the lowest incidence of corruption in the world.

The news pages of Helsinki Sanomat is evenly allocated to regional news about the Nordic countries, the European Union, and international news. It has two pages of national news, two full pages of foreign news, plenty for sports. Two pages are also allotted to Metro news.

Last week, the lead stories were the power blackout in Sweden and the storm in the Baltic. The blackout was the main picture on the hard news front page.

Environment

The economic and political stability of Finland is hardly the environment that can nurture or sustain sensational news feeding on daily output of political scandals. Its parliament is a sedate institution whose sessions do not draw hordes of media men and its debates are not followed avidly by the public.

Even most MPs do not attend the plenary and are bored listening to speeches of their colleagues. To be sure, there have been cases of improprieties of senior bureaucracies and even some Cabinet members, but these cases have not at all threatened the life of government.

The lesson we derive from Helsinki Sanomat's innovations is that leading newspapers, which have become financially entrenched, can innovate by setting a sober tone and diversified coverage of events which depict the cross-section or the face of a nation on any given day.

Herein—that is, shaping public mood and public opinion—lies the responsibility of and challenge to the dominant newspaper in any society, whether developed or developing.

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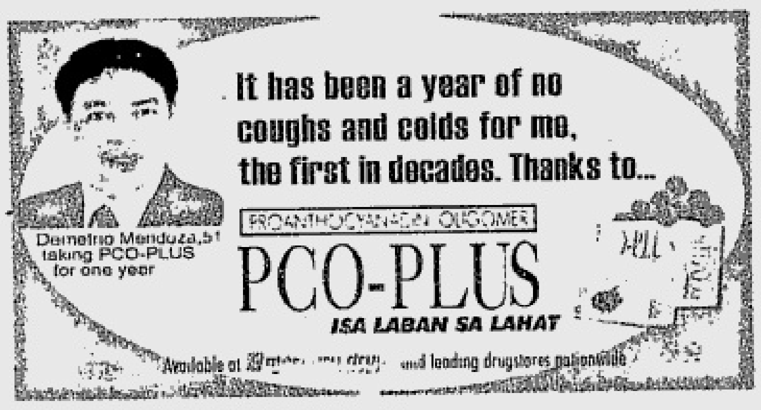
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THE SEARCH FOR RATIONAL CANCER SCREENING METHODS

Beatrice J. Tiangco, M.D. FPCP, FPSMO

Screening is the identification of unrecognized disease by the application of diagnostic tests which are rapid, inexpensive, accessible, and acceptable. These tests separate "well" persons who have a disease from those who probably do not have the disease. They provide a means to prevent illness and death by their ability to detect diseases in the pre-clinical stage, while the disease burden is limited and therefore potentially curable or reversible. As such, screening procedures, if proven useful, are best applied to asymptomatic individuals, usually during annual or executive check-ups.

When deciding which medical conditions should be sought during periodic examinations or executive check-ups, one should consider: 1) the burden of the disease, 2) the availability of effective treatment, and 3) the sensitivity and specificity, cost and acceptability of available tests.

The suffering caused by cancer and the high incidence with which it occurs constitutes an extremely high burden of disease. The most common cancers like lung, breast, colon and cervical cancer are curable in their very early stages usually with surgical excision. The challenge continues to be finding a way to detect them while they produce no signs nor symptoms with tests that are cost-effective and acceptable by the general public.

The screening tests that have been extensively studied and have been proven to make an impact on overall mortality rates are those that detect the early stages of skin, oral, cervix, colon and breast cancers.

Skin and oral cancers. Cancers of the skin and oral cavity can be detected early by close physical examination. Sun-exposed areas with mole-like lesions or moles which start to grow rapidly or change in color should be brought to the attention of a medical doctor. Semi-annual dental check-ups should be routine and non-healing wounds in the mouth should be further examined.

Cervical cancer. Cancer of the cervix is fast becoming the most common cancer in Filipino women. Closely related to the human papilloma virus, early lesions can be detected by Pap smear. This procedure should be done annually in all sexually active women. Unfortunately, while the smear is performed by a gynecologist or trained health worker, an expert pathologist is required for proper reading. This two-step process may lead to some women becoming lost to follow-up. Recent studies done by the Cervical Cancer Study Group of the Philippine General Hospital have shown that a simpler one-step procedure using acetic acid wash allows more rapid screening for cervical cancer. More studies are being done to verify initial positive results.

Colon cancer. There are several procedures that can screen for cancer of the colon. Fecal occult blood testing can be done annually, flexible sigmoidoscopy can be done every five years, colonoscopy can be done every ten years, or double-contrast barium enema can be done every five years. All these procedures can detect polyps or early colon cancer and have been shown to reduce the incidence or mortality from colorectal cancer.

Breast cancer. Over half a million women from all over the world have participated in studies comparing mammography every one to two years to "usual care" in the detection of early breast cancer in women aged 40 and above. These studies have shown that by doing mammography annually or biennially, the mortality from breast cancer goes down by 20 to 35%. If mammography is not available, women may have a breast examination by a trained health worker (clinical breast exam) every year and may also do a self breast examination every month.

The sad fact remains that few cancers can be detected by screening tests. Sadder still is the fact that even if these tests are readily available, few Filipinos are ever subject to these tests and therefore lose the chance to be saved from the consequences of these deadly illnesses. On the other side of this unfortunate situation is that due to misinformation, a lot of time, money and effort is spent by individuals undergoing "screening tests" which are not cost effective, have high percentages of falsely positive and worse, even falsely negative results. The Periodic Health Examination (PHEX) Project, initiated by Drs. Dante Morales and Antonio Dans of the Philippine General Hospital, aims to fill the information gap separating the Filipino adult from evidence-based, timely and appropriate screening tests for the most common and debilitating illnesses in our country, including cancer. It brings us all a step closer to a vision of health care and consciousness as a way of life for all Filipinos in a country where disease is prevented before it can lead to sickness, suffering and death

Message of the President

The Philippine Society of Medical Oncology is entering its 34th year and as we hold our 17th Annual Convention, we welcome you and ask you to join us as we "Bridge the Gap" which separates us from other colleagues in Medicine.

The PSMO mandates that each cancer patient should be an empowered patient served by a Multidisciplinary Team of doctors, each one offering his expertise so that the patient may receive the best care possible.

Over the next two days, as we attend plenary sessions and symposia highlighting the different specialties' roles in the care of patients with more common malignancies, we look forward to interacting with all participants both inside the session hall and as we meet along the corridors. We need to get to know each other more, after all, we are teammates.

In behalf of the Governing Council of Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, we welcome you to our 17th Annual Convention together let us bridge the gap that separates us by joining hands and working together in fighting the BIG C.

Beatrice J. Tiangco, MD
President

Thursday, October 2, 2003

7:00 am 3:00 pm REGISTRATION
8:00 am OPENING CEREMONIES
8:30 am OPENING OF EXHIBITS

6th Bernardino Agustin Memorial Lecture
Co-Chairs: Adonis A. Guancia, MD
Rex Melchor D. Muyco, MD
8:30 am **The State of Cancer Medicine in the Philippines**
Speaker: ANTONIO H. VILLALON, MD

9:15 am COFFEE BREAK

Plenary Session I
Co-Chairs: Leilani D. Dantes, MD
Ma. Estrella S. Puddoc-Santos, MD
9:30 am **Vaccines in Cancer**
Speaker: CORAZON A. NGELANGEL, MD
JORGE G. IGNACIO JR., MD

Convention Symposium I
Nutrition in Cancer Patients / Dietary Do's & Don'ts
Co-Chairs: Carolina M. Faleis, MD
Christopher C. Peña, MD
10:00 am **Speakers:**
LUISITO O. LLIDO, MD
JONATHAN M. ASPRER, MD
GLORIA R. CRISTAL-LUNA, MD

Plenary Session II
Co-Chairs: Charity Charisse Viado N. Gorospe, MD
Ma. Luisa R. Ordoño, MD
11.00 **Palliative Care in the Last 48 Hours**
Speaker: CYNTHIA V. SAN LUIS, MD

Luncheon Satellite Symposium
11:30 am **Setting New Standard in the Hormonal Treatment in Breast Cancer**
Zometa-The Place of Zometa in Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Lung Cancer
Speaker: TAN YEW OO, MD

Convention Symposium II
Cancer Screening
Co-Chairs: Alan Paul L. Olavere, MD
Pauline So-Kaw, MD
1:15 pm **Breast Cancer**
Speaker: BEATRICE J. TIANGCO, MD
Cervical Cancer
Speaker: CHRISTINE F. PALMA, MD
Prostate Cancer
Speaker: MICHAEL L. GASTON, MD
DISCUSSION

Panel Discussion
Medico-Legal Issues in Cancer Management
Co-Chairs: Jose S. Garcia, MD
Honey Santa J. Abatquez, MD
1:15 pm **Speakers:**
ANTONIO C. REBOSA, MD
BU C. CASTRO, MD
ANGELES TAN-ALORA, MD

Convention Symposium VI
Management of Brain Metastases
Co-Chairs: Ma. Noemi A. Uy, MD
Chito Nazal-Manunog, MD
2.15 pm **Radiation Oncology**
Speaker: TERESA SY-ORTIN, MD
Medical Oncology
Speaker: DENNIS M. TUDTUD, MD
Neurosurgery
Speaker: THEODORE S. VESAGAS, MD

Convention Symposium VII
Psychosocial Issues in Cancer Management
Co-Chairs: Ma. Isabel B. Romana, MD
Jhade Lotus P. Peneyra, MD
3:15 pm **Psychiatrist**
Speaker: ANTONIO C. SISON, MD
Medical Oncology
Speaker: BETTY C. TALAVER, MD
Patient
Speaker: SOCORRO C. MARTINEZ, MD
DISCUSSION

Plenary Session III
Co-Chairs: Priscilla B. Caguioa, MD
Ma. Ermelinda D. Nacino-Batac, MD
4:15 pm **Paradigm of New Development in Management of Lung Cancer**
Speaker: TONY MOK, MD

4:45 pm CLOSING CEREMONIES

6:00 pm INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

Convention Symposium III
Role of Chemoprevention
Co-Chairs: Anita L. Jesena, MD
Joselito P. Cruz, MD
2:15 pm **Lung Cancer**
Speaker: APOLONIO G. PASION JR., MD
Breast Cancer
Speaker: VALORIE FULLON-CHAN, MD
Colon Cancer
Speaker: GINA V. PANUNCIALMAN, MD

Convention Symposium IV
Infections in the Cancer Patient
Co-Chairs: Felycette Gay P. Martinez-Lapus, MD
Jaime Jesus D. Rojo, MD
3:15 pm **Bacteremia in Cancer Patients**
Speaker: MARGARITA T. CAYCO, MD
Fungal Infections in the Immunocompromised Host
Speaker: JENNIFER A. CHUA, MD
Use of GCSF's in Neutropenic Fever
Speaker: JUANITA LT-LIM, MD

4.15 pm BUSINESS MEETING

Friday, October 3, 2003

7:00 am 12:00 nn REGISTRATION

8:30 am - 10:30 am RESEARCH FORUM
Co-Chairs: Marie Cherry Lynn Samson-Fernando, MD
Alexander T. Delgado, MD
Jorge G. Ignacio, MD

Symposium V
Management of Bone Metastases
Agnes Evangelista-Gorospe, MD
Felicitas V. Bagan, MD
Orthopedic
Speaker: RAFAEL S. CLAUDIO, MD
Radiation Oncology
Speaker: MIRIAM JOY C. CALAGUAS, MD
Medical Oncology
Speaker: GRACIEUX Y. FERNANDO, MD
DISCUSSION

Satellite Symposium
A New Generation Anti-Cancer Targeted Therapy: Iressa (GEFITINIB) in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
MICHAEL COLLEN, MD

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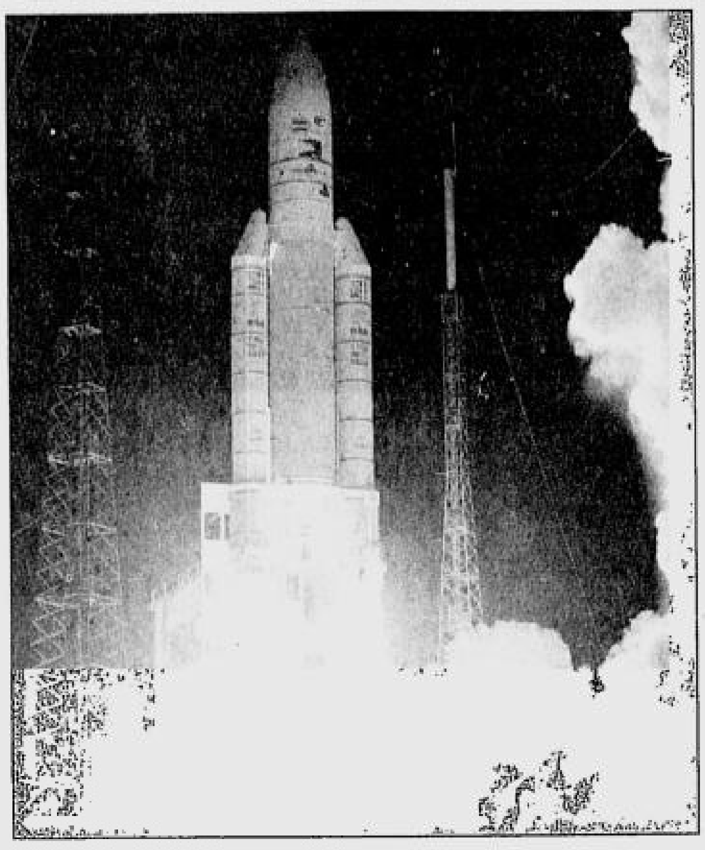
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Nationwide blackout cripples Italy



OFF TO THE MOON
Europe's Ariane-5, carrying a lunar explorer and two satellites, takes off on Sept. 27 from the Kourou space center in French Guyana. The rocket will put on orbit two geostationary satellites, one Indian and one European. AFP

ROME—A massive blackout hit Italy on Sunday, cutting power to millions of Italians who woke up to find their phone lines silent and their televisions black, while drivers struggled through streets without traffic lights and trains remained stuck on the tracks.

Most of Italy's 57 million people were left without power, compared to the 50 million affected during the Aug. 14 blackout in North America. By mid-morning, power was returning to the north but still remained out in Rome and much of the south.

Authorities urged citizens not to panic. "Everybody stay calm," said civil defense chief Guido Bertolaso. "There is no major crisis at the moment."

He said 50 percent of Italy had regained power since the pre-dawn blackout hit, with electricity returning to some parts of the capital.

At a darkened café in Rome, manager Massimo Purificato complained that without his espresso machine and the ability to make croissants he couldn't keep a customer in the place.

Many Italian reports said the power cut originated in France, which provides the bulk of Italian electricity. But French officials denied responsibility.

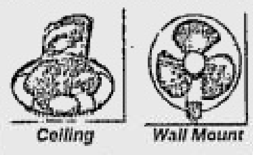
An official of the Italian power company Enel said electricity connections in the Alps between Italy and France broke down before dawn for unknown reasons.

The outages hit at 3:25 a.m. (0125 GMT). Regional electricity company, Acea, said power went out everywhere across the nation except on the island of Sardinia.

Carlo Andrea Bollino, the director of the Italian electrical network, ruled out terrorism. "All the data we have now is in line with a technical failure," Bollino said.

Hospitals were running on generators but it was unclear how long they could keep it up. Traffic accidents occurred across the nation as drivers zoomed toward intersections lacking in traffic lights. Airports cited major delays and cancelled several flights. Some 110 trains were stopped across the nation with 30,000 passengers on board, and hundreds of people were stranded during an all-night festival in Rome.

By midmorning, electricity returned to Venice, Milan and other northern cities. However, rural areas as well as Rome and all regions south of the capital remained largely without power. *AP*



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Blair: No regrets about war on Iraq

BOURNEMOUTH, England—British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Sunday insisted he had no regrets at all about taking Britain into the war against Iraq, despite increasing public dissatisfaction about the conflict.

Blair's popularity has slumped in the wake of the Iraq war, principally over allegations that his government misled the British public about the danger faced from Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

According to a poll released on Sunday almost half of all voters, including many Labor supporters, want Blair to quit over his handling of the Iraq war.

Speaking shortly before the start of what is set to be a hugely difficult annual conference of his ruling Labor Party, Blair insisted he had done nothing wrong in backing the US-led campaign to remove Saddam.

"No. I would have done exactly the same," Blair said when asked whether, with hindsight, he had any regrets.

"I believe as powerfully as I did at the time that making sure that that man is no longer in charge of Iraq is a good thing for his country, the region and the world. I don't apologize for Iraq. I am proud of what we have done," a tired looking but determined prime minister said from the southern English seaside resort of Bournemouth, where the Labor conference opened late yesterday. *AFP*

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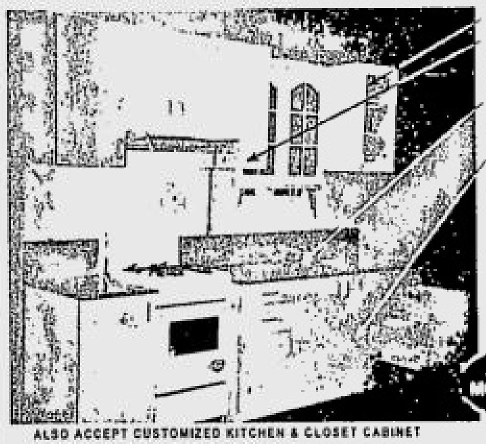

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No compromise over nukes – Iran

TEHRAN, Iran—Iran will not give up its nuclear program and will continue enriching uranium, the foreign ministry said Sunday as international pressure mounts against Tehran to come clean on its atomic aims.

"Relinquishing peaceful nuclear technology or enriching uranium is not a subject Iran can compromise on," foreign ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi told reporters during a weekly press conference on Sunday.

Asefi didn't elaborate, but his comments suggested a toughening of Iran's position that could see it defy international calls to suspend its uranium enrichment plans.

The United States accuses Iran of enriching uranium to make nuclear weapons. Tehran rejects the claims and insists it is building a centrifuge plant at Natanz, central Iran, to enrich uranium for electricity generation.

Weapons-grade uranium is more highly enriched than that used for energy.

In August, the International Atomic Energy Agency said traces of weapons-grade enriched uranium were found at Natanz, but Iran said the equipment was contaminated before being purchased.

On Saturday, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization spokesperson, Saber Zaeimiah, said Iranian scientists had been working nonstop on nuclear projects and the Natanz enrichment plant was nearing completion. He did not say when it will be inaugurated.

America does not believe Iran has made nuclear weapons, citing a lack of fissile material—either enriched uranium or plutonium. Some worry, however, that Natanz is Iran's attempt to close the gap.

Zaeimian said another nuclear facility in Isfahan was close to inauguration. The site will process uranium ore into gas, which will be enriched at Natanz.

Sunday, Asefi said Iranian authorities were preparing a response to a resolution by the UN nuclear agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, that gave Tehran until Oct. 31 to prove its nuclear program is peaceful.

"The concerned authorities are in the process of preparing a response," he said. "I hope our response will not take long before we announce it." *AP*

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Arms caches seized in Baghdad, Tikrit

BAGHDAD—Police and US troops seized weapons in Baghdad and near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit after a small but symbolic rocket attack on a US compound in the Iraqi capital that caused no casualties but appeared meant to warn the Americans of their vulnerability in this turbulent country.

The cache found Saturday near Tikrit included 23 Russian-made surface to air missiles, 1,000 pounds of plastic explosives, grenades, grenade launchers, rockets, a mortar and mortar rounds, and was among the largest recovered there since American troops arrived in April, according to Maj. Mike Rauhut of the 4th Infantry Division.

In Baghdad, Iraqi police found a much smaller cache late Saturday, recovering about a dozen small rockets, grenades and mortar rounds. The warheads had been removed from the rockets, suggesting they were to have been used in fabricating small roadside bombs which have caused casualties among US troops and Iraqi civilians.

Police Gen. Ahmed Kadhim Ibrahim said the weapons were recovered in the Shorja market after a tip from an informant. He said the weapons had been brought to Baghdad from the southern port of Basra after having been smuggled in from a neighboring country which he would not identify.

US troops and their Iraqi partners have been trying to curb the flow of weapons after attacks against American forces, which have killed more than 80 US soldiers since US President George W. Bush declared an end to major combat operations in Iraq on May 1.

Over the past 90 days, the number of daily attacks against US troops has ranged from the "low teens to the mid-20s" each day, according to Charles Heatley, spokesperson for the Coalition Provisional Authority.

Most of the resistance has been centered in the area north and west of Baghdad, the stronghold of the country's Sunni Muslim minority. Despite their minority status, Sunnis formed the core of Saddam's regime.

Faced with continued resistance, the Bush administration has been seeking support from other countries to join in reconstruction and to provide troops to reduce the burden of American soldiers. However, many major countries have refused to send their own soldiers without United Nations approval. *AP*

COMMANDO TRAINING

Thai special commandos train in Bangkok on Sept. 28 for the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in October, which will be attended by the leaders of 21 nations, including US President George W. Bush.

REUTERS

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JI reportedly planning attacks in December

SINGAPORE—Suicide bombers belonging to a Southeast Asian terror group with suspected links to al-Qaida are planning attacks in December on hotels and housing complexes in Indonesia that are popular with foreigners, a news report said Sunday.

Twelve militants belonging to Jemaah Islamiyah are targeting international hotels in the capital city of Jakarta, as well as Surabaya on the main island of Java and Medan city on Sumatra island, Singapore's Sunday Times quoted unidentified Indonesian intelligence officials as saying.

Residential areas with large expatriate communities are also potential targets, it said.

Indonesian police were not immediately available for comment, but they and foreign governments have warned that militants were planning attacks in the coming months.

The Jemaah Islamiyah group has been blamed for last year's bombings on the Indonesian island of Bali that killed 202 people and the blast in August at Jakarta's JW Marriott Hotel that killed at least 12.

The Sunday Times also said the group was using Sebatik island between Malaysia's Sabah state and Indonesia's Kalimantan province as a transit point for weapons. *AP*

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Few see early end to Mideast violence

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Three years after the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians again exploded, the two sides seem trapped in a cycle of stalled peace initiatives and piercing violence.

Israelis live in fear of the next suicide attack. Palestinians suffer the humiliation of Israeli roadblocks and the threat of army raids in their communities.

Both economies are badly ailing.

And few hold out hope the two sides can drag themselves out of the violent morass.

"I don't see an end anytime soon," said Uri Savir, a former Israeli peace negotiator who helped design the 1990s interim agreements that created Palestinian autonomy zones in the West Bank and Gaza.

Since the violence began on Sept. 28, 2000, 2,417 people have been killed on the Palestinian side and 860 on the Israeli side. In addition, about 60 Palestinians suspected of informing for Israel have been killed by Palestinian militants.

Israelis blame Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, accusing him, at worst, of orchestrating the uprising and encouraging suicide attacks and, at best, of refusing to crack down on militant groups behind the attacks.

Palestinians hold Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon responsible, pointing to more Jewish settlement construction and Israel's tough military measures—which have killed hundreds of civilians—as evidence that his occasional words of peace are a charade.

Yet the actions of both sides have solidified support for the opposing leaders. Even though polls show a majority in Israel would happily part with most of the Palestinian-populated lands the nation seized in the 1967 war, Sharon won strong reelection in January on a wave of fear created by suicide attacks.

"They (the Palestinians) are claiming that the problem is with this Israeli government without acknowledging or even entertaining the possibility that they are the ones who put this government into office," said Mark Heller, an Israeli analyst at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Israel's threats to expel or even kill Arafat have cloaked the Palestinian leader in a martyr's mantle, making him more popular with his people. *AP*

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Calls mount for release of Suu Kyi

RANGOON—Burmese democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi remained under house arrest Sunday amid mounting calls for her release and hopes that a visiting United Nations envoy could help secure her freedom.

Security surrounding her famous University Drive villa was tight, with traffic police and military intelligence officials maintaining a 24-hour guard and barring visitors including a group of Western diplomats.

The 58-year-old opposition leader was taken to her home Friday after nearly four months of detention in a secret location which ended when she was admitted to a private hospital in Rangoon (Yangon) for major gynecological surgery.

She had been held incommunicado since May 30 when she was arrested after violent clashes between her supporters and a pro-junta mob which ambushed her convoy during a political tour of northern Myanmar.

The military government of Burma (Myanmar) had been under intense international pressure to release Aung San Suu Kyi, and the decision to put her under house arrest was greeted with relief but with continuing calls for her to be freed unconditionally. Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, who will host a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Bali next month, reportedly urged the junta to make its plans for the opposition leader clear before the meeting.

"The Myanmar government should state specifically whether it will keep Suu Kyi under house arrest or free her immediately. The road map over whether it will free Suu Kyi should be made clear," she told the Jakarta Post on Sunday. "Otherwise the issue could cast a shadow over the summit." *AFP*

Aftershocks cause big fire in Japan coastal city

TOKYO—Strong aftershocks jolted the Japanese island of Hokkaido Sunday two days after an earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale, and a new fire broke out at an oil refinery where the tremor had caused a major blaze.

The prefectural government of Hokkaido, northern Japan, said a total of 588 people had been injured in Friday's huge quake and its aftershocks by Sunday afternoon.

A fire started at a naphtha tank around 10:47 a.m. (0147 GMT) at the Idemitsu Kosan Co. Ltd. refinery housing some 110 tanks in the Pacific Coast city of Tomakomai, Hokkaido island, a company spokesperson said.

Television footage showed huge orange flames and black smoke pouring up from the roof of a cylindrical tank.

"More than 10 trucks are battling the fire ... but it has not been extinguished yet," the spokesperson said more than three hours after the fire started, while noting nobody was injured.

The powerful quake on Friday slanted the movable roof of the tank and caused naphtha, an inflammable oil, to rise above it, he said. "It is yet to be investigated how the naphtha caught fire and whether it was linked to aftershocks," he said.

The Idemitsu official said firefighters were "trying to prevent other tanks from catching fire." There was no danger of tsunami tidal waves.

It was the second fire at the refinery in three days after Friday's quake, which was followed by a second measuring 7.8, caused a major blaze at a crude oil storage tank that took seven hours to put out.

The tank containing the naphtha, used as raw material for petrochemical products, has a storage capacity of 32,779 kiloliters (8.5 million gallons).

About 60 aftershocks were measured by midday (0300 GMT) after Friday's first quake, whose focus was about 80 km off Hokkaido's Pacific coast and 42 km below sea-level.

One of the strongest aftershocks measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale hit Hokkaido around 7:23 a.m. (2223 GMT, Saturday), the meteorological agency said.

Of the 588 people injured, 45 sustained heavy injuries such as bone fractures but none was in a life-threatening condition, according to the prefectural government. *AFP*

AN OIL storage tank containing naphtha explodes in flames in Tomakomai on Sept. 28. REUTERS

Hotel sex orgy appalls China

BEIJING—China's official media was up in arms on Sunday about a three-day orgy allegedly held by a group of Japanese tourists and hundreds of Chinese prostitutes at a hotel in southern China on the anniversary of Japan's invasion of China.

A group of about 400 Japanese men, ranging in age from 37 to 16, flew into the city of Zhuhai, in Guangdong province purely for sex at a hotel that on one of those nights had nearly 500 girls brought to serve them, papers including the Beijing Youth Daily said.

The five-star hotel—Zhuhai International Convention Center Hotel—where the orgy, which began on Sept. 16, took place has since been shut down by police.

"We've sent people down to investigate, but we don't have any details yet," said a police official at the Guangdong Province Public Security Bureau.

A hotel staffer said Sunday there were no rooms available.

"We've completely shut down for rectification," a hotel employee said, but refused to comment further.

Media reports said the hotel, using its contacts in Japan, had organized the group of all-male tourists from Japan to come to Zhuhai.

The hotel's night club madame made contacts with numerous night clubs in the city to prepare a large group of girls for the men.

On the night of Sept. 16, witnesses said the hotel lobby was full of tourists grabbing and hugging the women, with some men groping the women all the way up the elevator ride to their rooms.

One hotel guest said he was shocked to witness the scene as he waited some half hour just to catch an elevator up to the 13th floor.

Doors to some of the rooms were left ajar and three to four girls could be seen or heard in one room, the Beijing Youth Daily report said.

Asked why they were in Zhuhai, one of the Japanese guests said: "We came to play with Chinese girls!"

The orgy lasted until Sept. 18, the 72nd anniversary of Japan's invasion of China in 1931 and subsequent occupation of parts of China until the end of World War II in 1945.

Interviewed by Chinese media, hotel managers said Japanese tourists regularly came to their hotel for prostitution services—indicating the date may have been a coincidence.

But Chinese people reading the reports spewed anger over the Internet over what they considered an humiliating incident. *AFP*

Malaysian PM to quit Oct. 31

KUALA LUMPUR—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has ruled out any change of heart about retiring after 22 years in power, and will step down on Oct. 31, newspapers reported Sunday.

"I may be healthy, but I have been prime minister too long," Mahathir told Malaysian students on Saturday during a visit to Monaco. "It's time to move on and pass the job to someone else."

Asked by reporters whether he has set a definite retirement date, Mahathir said: "It will be on the last day of October."

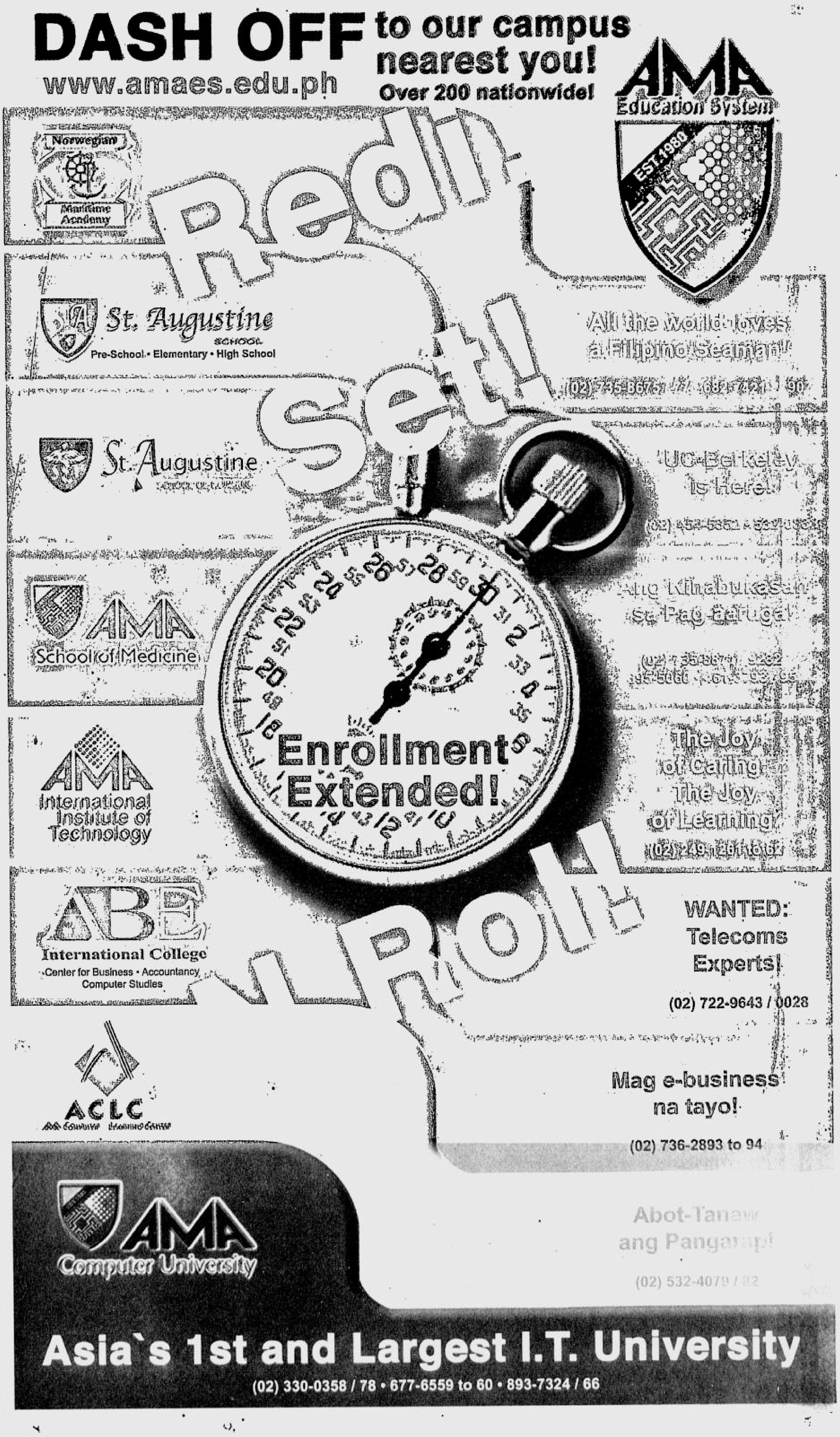
Mahathir added he would not change his mind. "If I do, my credibility will be gone," he was quoted as saying by the New Sunday Times newspaper.

Mahathir, 77, announced his retirement last year but agreed to a transition period that would have him hand over power to his deputy, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, after Malaysia hosts a summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference next month.

Since taking office in 1981, Mahathir has carved out a role as a spokesperson for moderate Islam and the developing world.

He has nurtured Malaysia's rise from a tin- and rubber-producing backwater into one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest, most industrialized nations.

He used his last appearance at the United Nations on Thursday to deride the world body as a "puppet" of rich and powerful nations and called for structural reforms in the UN Security Council. *AP*



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ISSN 0116-2642
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 18 No. 293
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

OPINION

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Not so fast

EDITORIAL

WHEN one result of the latest Pulse Asia survey hit the front page on Friday, showing that a simple majority of Filipinos believe that the Magdalo mutineers had valid reasons for their July 27 uprising, the lawyers for the five mutiny leaders spun instant press releases with the alacrity of ambulance chasers.

The mutiny leaders feel vindicated, one lawyer said in a text message to several journalists early on Friday morning, because the survey means the Magdalo officers have won in the court of public opinion. Making themselves immediately available for media interviews, the mutineers' counsel discoursed on the moral purity of their clients, all of whom are graduates of the Philippine Military Academy.

Argee Guevarra, lawyer for Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV and the other mutiny leaders, compared the alleged popularity of the mutineers with that of the President's administration. "Despite the shameless character assassination campaign being waged against Trillanes and his comrades by the GMA government, a government which suffers from a plunging public approval rating, the Magdalo soldiers emerged victorious in the court of public opinion."

Not content with the comparison, Guevarra went on to say that his clients would have "scored higher in the polls" if it hadn't been for the administration's alleged disinformation campaign.

What connection existed between popularity and their clients' guilt or innocence as determined in the courts of justice, however, the lawyers failed to explain.

Preempted by heads-up work of the military intelligence service, the Magdalo soldiers were forced to change their plans from a military takeover to a mutiny—essentially a defensive action by desperate men. Even in this less constitutionally dangerous form, however, the mutineers' action seriously violated both the Articles of War and the Revised Penal Code.

Whether they face a court martial or civilian proceeding, or both, the mutineers cannot expect to be exonerated by public sympathy or even public support. If their lawyers have told them otherwise, they should immediately rid themselves of their counsel. Mark our word: A lawyer who tells them their salvation lies in "the court of public opinion" is, like the generals they have accused of corruption, someone who means to fatten himself on their sacrifice.

The administration of justice cannot be a popularity contest. (That a lawyer's clients enjoy more public sympathy than the administration prosecuting them is not a compelling legal argument; in fact, it is the opposite. It shows that the lawyer has run out of legal arguments.)

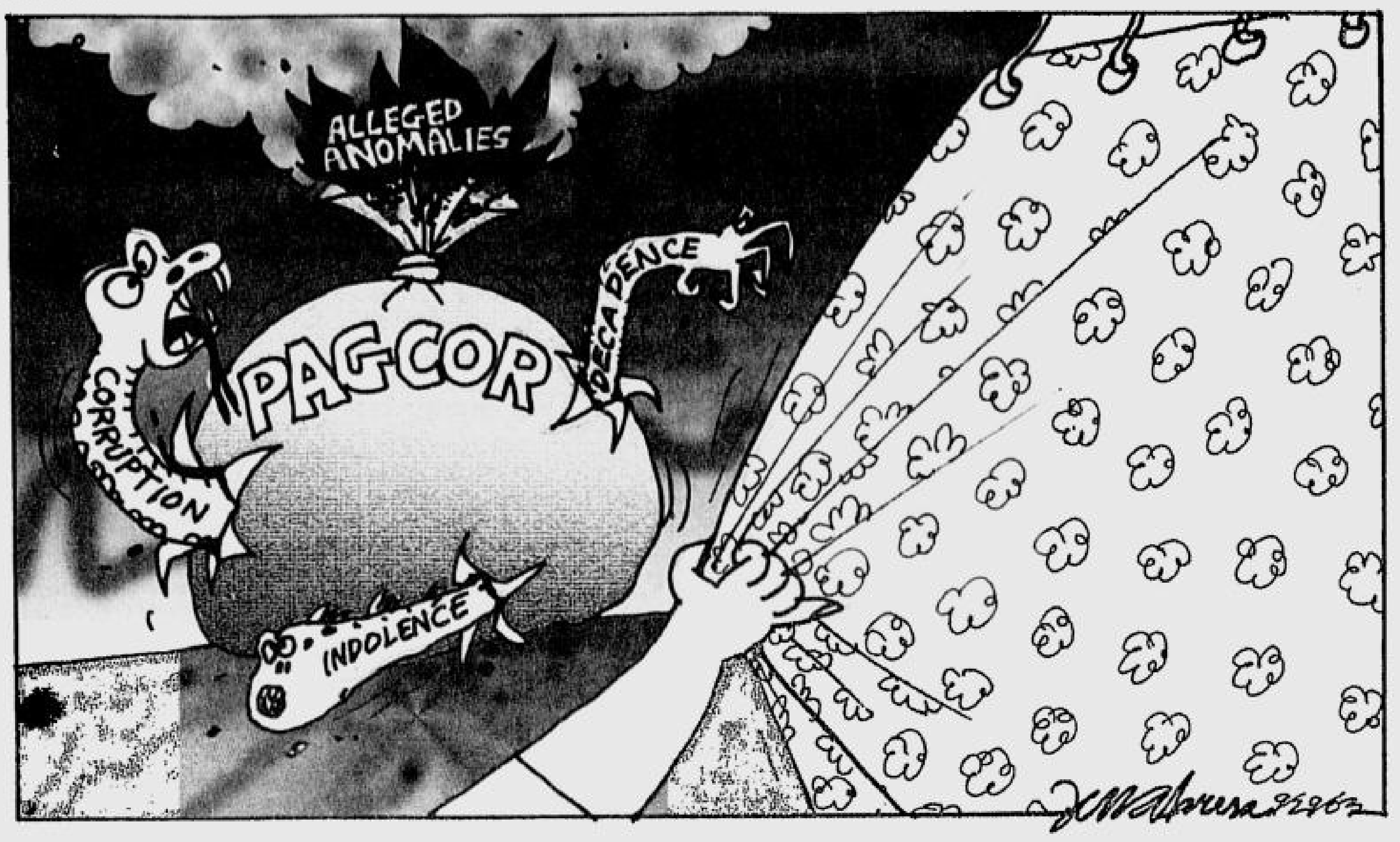
As it turns out, the same Pulse Asia survey found that the July 27 mutiny was not as popular, or at least as unambiguous, as the mutineers' lawyers would have us believe. While 55 percent of survey respondents said they believed the soldiers had valid reasons for rebelling, the poll itself did not find the uprising justified. "It did not say that the mutiny was justified. It said they (soldiers) had a reason for the mutiny," Felipe Miranda, Pulse Asia research director, said in a telephone interview.

"They (the respondents) are not in favor of a coup," Miranda added.

In a letter to the Inquirer, Miranda added: Despite the people's "sympathetic attitude for the soldiers... the public maintains a strongly constitutionalist orientation and does not support coups or mutinies against the government."

He noted that a plurality of Filipinos, some 39 percent, considered the mutiny to be flat out wrong, while some 36 percent were "undecided." The public's "constitutionalist mindset," he said, is also unmistakable in its clear rejection (59 percent in September, up from 53 percent in April) of martial law.

Public sympathy for the rebels, or at least their grievances, is an old story. In this latest news cycle, the story was at least two days old before it reached the front page; Miranda was on cable television as early as Wednesday explaining the survey results. Why the mutineers' lawyers decided to perorate only on Friday is another story in itself.



Contradiction in statements of Mike and the Tohs

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE TOH siblings (Vicky Toh, Thomas Toh, and brother-in-law Kelvin Tan) have presented to the Senate certifications from different banks that the accounts in their names cited by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his privilege speeches "do not exist." Lacson had intimated that the deposits really belonged to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and that the Tohs were merely his "dummies." Now the bank certifications that the accounts are non-existent are supposed to prove that Lacson was lying and write finis to the Senate hearings.

Wait a minute, not so fast. There are questions that need to be clarified first. Didn't the Tohs, shortly after Lacson accused them of fronting for Mike, issue statements that the bank accounts cited by Lacson really belonged to them and not to Mike? And that they have enough wealth from their businesses to justify those deposits? If, as the banks certify, there are no accounts in the names of the Tohs, what did they acknowledge having in that first statement? Just asking.

Another question: The bank certifications stated that the mentioned bank accounts, the account numbers and names of the banks cited, "do not exist." This means they're non-existent "at present," "now." In which case the banks are telling the truth. But is it possible that sometime in the past those accounts did exist? If they had, the banks would still be telling the truth because their certifications did not say that the accounts "don't exist now and never existed in the past." In other words, there could have been such bank accounts in the past but are now closed, hence, no longer exist. But by giving such a statement, the banks give the impression that the accounts "never existed," although they actually mean another thing. That is what is called "mental reservation," when you say one thing but mean another, when you actually tell the truth but not the whole truth. Or when you say a half-truth and a half-lie.

Another thing: The banks said "according to our records" the questioned bank accounts don't exist. They're most probably telling the truth, they did check their records. But it could be only the present records, not past records where it is possible that the mentioned accounts can be found.

Because the puzzle keeps going back to this: If the Tohs acknowledged early on that the bank accounts really existed and belonged to them, not to Mike as Lacson charged, why are the banks now denying that they exist? The possible answer: They did exist in the past but not anymore.

* * *

Similarly, the past and present utterances of Mike Arroyo and his brother Ignacio arouse more questions than they answer. For example, after Lacson accused Big Brother Mike of being Jose Pidal, Mike said he did not know who Jose Pidal was. That was only several weeks ago. Yet in his later statements, after Little Brother Iggy came out of the woodwork to claim he is Jose Pidal, Big Mike said, obviously to confirm his brother's allegations, that yes, Iggy had told him sometime in 2001 that he had a bank deposit in the name of Jose Pidal and that he was closing it because the Anti-Money Laundering Law (Amla) would come into effect wherein deposits under fictitious names would be illegal. Iggy himself said basically the same thing in an interview with Ces Drilon on ABS-CBN, after testifying at the Senate, that he had informed Big Brother Mike in 2001 that he was closing the Jose Pidal account.

In other words, by August 2003, when Lacson made his accusations about the Jose Pidal deposits, Big Mike already knew that kid brother Iggy is Jose Pidal. Why did he deny knowing who Jose Pidal was?

* * *

Day after tomorrow, Oct. 1, the "open skies" regime between the Philippines and the United States will take effect. What happens then? Is it good or bad for us?

According to a briefing paper: Bad!

"The advent of open skies leaves in place a number of inequities in the RP-US aviation relationship," said the backgrounder. "Two of the more glaring ones:

"1. Philippine carriers are restricted to nine gateways in the US; American carriers enjoy unrestricted access to any point in the Philippines.

"2. Philippine carriers can carry passengers beyond the US (so-called 5th freedom right) to only five countries; American carriers can carry passengers beyond the Philippines to virtually all countries in Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

"These unequal exchanges and more will remain the norm after Oct. 1. Worse, open skies will add still another unfair provision. From Oct. 1, US and RP carriers can operate unlimited flights to any point in the other country.

"While the effect of this capacity-cap lifting may not be immediately apparent, in the long run it solidifies the patently inequitable relationship of two very dissimilar competitors.

The US now also wants to operate cargo flights to and from neighboring Asian countries exclusively out of hubs in the Philippines, with no connection to a US airport. This so-called 7th freedom privilege is, in fact, being utilized right now by American cargo giants UPS at Clark Field and Federal Express at Subic Bay.

"The hitch is that such operation is not allowed by the RP-US air treaty and even by the Constitution, as it violates the requirement of at least 60-percent Filipino ownership of public utilities (which cargo flights are).

"Stymied on this front, the US is now pushing the Arroyo government to unilaterally declare Clark an 'open skies' airport, with no reciprocal obligation on Washington's part, thus depriving the national government of a valuable bargaining chip in future negotiations."

Ambivalence

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST year, I wrote about Kris Aquino. She had just become the cynosure of the nation's eyes for making her affection for Joey Marquez public. My reason for doing so was that I was bothered by the jokes about it. Though some of the jokes were really funny—we Filipinos are past masters at gallows humor, and we get sharper the more the noose tightens around our necks. They were also pretty cruel. Or indeed sprung from very wrong premises.

I was particularly uncomfortable about the ones that suggested promiscuity on her part. There was no lack of cheap shots made on the words "*Hindi ka nagiisa*" and "The Filipino is worth dying for." There was a larger issue at stake there, I thought, which was the double standards we held about the proper behavior of men and women. We had just had a president who did not particularly mind parading his mistresses and conquests before the world, yet no one made any bones about it. Except Jaime Cardinal Sin, and everyone thought him puritan. There were jokes about his incontinence to be sure, but they were not cruel, they were admiring. When Kris, on the other hand, gushed out her affection for someone against all opposition—her family's chief of them—the world came down on her.

The reactions I got from friends and readers were: one, that it wasn't the promiscuity people were making fun of, it was Kris' penchant for exhibitionism; and, two, why did I have to fiddle around while Rome burned? The first I don't buy: the underlying premise of many of the jokes was not scorn for Kris' loudness but her presumed "*kalandian*", a judgment never made about men. The second doesn't bother me. I write about things I feel strongly about, whether others think them important or not. If I can't be true to myself, I can't be true to the public.

This time, however, I am tremendously loath to write about Kris'—or Joey Marquez's—current predicament. One would think it would be easier because the women's groups have already given it a national-interest spin: Kris should be congratulated for making domestic violence public. That should encourage battered wives to come out and seek redress, or be rescued from their plight. If true, I myself would join the chorus and sing my praises, too.

But that is the first thing that bothers me about this issue, the rush to judgment. I myself do not particularly like Joey Marquez. And while I am infinitely tolerant of the foibles of love—those who insist the young should marry, or settle down, wisely have either not been in love or have forgotten how they themselves rushed in where angels fear to tread; it is always a case of temporary insanity, well, sometimes permanent—I can't understand how any woman couldn't have sensed the danger a mile away. Anybody who has seen an episode of "*Palibhasa Lalake*"—the title says it all—couldn't have failed to spot the machismo. I don't mean by this the penchant for fickleness (a lot of fickle men are not macho), but the attitude of being God's gift to women. The kind (like Robin Padilla) that says such patronizing things as "*Ang babae ay di binubugbog kundi niroromansa.*"

But having said that, I don't know that naturally makes Marquez guilty as charged. Is it possible that someone entertaining political ambitions would beat up a partner who is not just the daughter of the most prominent citizen of this country but is one of its most popular show-biz personalities? Well, stranger things have happened and there's no telling what machismo can do. But until that is proven, I don't see why I should join the lynch mob.

That is the second thing that bothers me about this: the uses of the media for whipping up a frenzy. Unlike Maria Teresa Carlson, who was at the mercy of her oppressor, Kris is not. She is a powerful person in her own right in this television-addled country, having several shows in ABS-CBN. She is not the underdog in this case. Maybe it's true, as she says, that Marquez is merely inventing her having said she would ruin him because she is popular and people are apt to believe her, but the way she is going on about this, she is giving credence to his accusation. She is turning Marquez into a sympathetic figure by making him the object of a media mugging. That is assault and battery, too, and it is happening right before our eyes.

The way she and Korina Sanchez have violated every canon of media ethics, chief of them maintaining a degree of objectivity and giving the other side a chance to say his piece, is enough to embarrass any self-respecting journalist. One would imagine that if Kris had learned any lesson in life, it would be that when you try to silence someone by an excessive use of force, he speaks with the force of a thousand tongues.

What this incontinent display of power is bound to encourage is not more battered women to come out and tell all but more idiots in the media to oppress their enemies, particularly those who cannot fight back.

The last thing that bothers me about this issue is our utter lack of sense of proportion, our infinite capacity to dwell on these things. Rome is burning, or this country is. I feel the charge of fiddling more sharply in this case, and my only excuse is that a dissenting voice must be heard here. Of course, other countries are prey to the snares of the Pied Piper, too—even England waxed show biz over the death of Diana whose contribution in life were to prove more interesting than the man she married. But we do it to outrageous lengths. Rico Yan dies and we make a saint of him. Ruffa Gutierrez marries and we want to follow every step of her pregnancy. Kris Aquino and Joey Marquez fight, and we stop the world.

A country of slaves deserves tyrants. A country of simpletons deserves F4. And the Kris and Joey show.

Filipinos don't support coups

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I RAN into Basilan Lakas Rep. Jerry Salapuddin recently and queried him about how the political picture vis-à-vis the 2004 elections looks to him. He smiled and noted that the situation seems very fluid, but one thing is sure: everything, including the plans of the opposition on whom to field, seems to hinge on the decision of President Macapagal-Arroyo to run or not to run. I queried Salapuddin on whether he thought GMA can recover the 10-point drop in her approval ratings, conceded to have been caused by the Jose Pidal exposé, and he replied, "Definitely she can recover." At the recent "Online" program of Gene Orejana where viewers texted whether they'd vote for GMA or not, the overwhelming majority said they would, and the most often cited reasons were that she's very hard-working and the most experienced in governance.

But at this point, what GMA would do is anyone's guess, but I think she prayed very hard at St. Peter's Basilica for divine guidance.

* * *

Among those in the wait-and-see mode is NPC founder Eduardo Cojuangco, who keeps postponing his own deadline for declaring his intentions vis-à-vis 2004. Last August his camp said he'd make the announcement in early September, and then it was moved to the end of this month, and now it's Oct. 15. I suspect one reason Cojuangco can't make up his mind despite the phalanx of congressmen egging him on is that he's not convinced that the broad masses will go for him. He has impressed a sector of the business community with the success of San Miguel Corp., but businessmen command only a handful of staffers; as for the congressmen delivering the votes, the unsuccessful quest of Speakers Ramon Mitra and Jose de Venecia for the presidency had debunked the so-called command votes. Some congressmen are egging Cojuangco on because they hope he will fund their campaigns. But he knows he is not popular with the people, especially the coconut farmers from whom the coco levy was extracted over 10 years. Besides, the way he looks, he doesn't excite the broad masses.

* * *

As for Sen. Panfilo Lacson, some pundits are opining that if Cojuangco or Fernando Poe Jr. runs, he will be marginalized. If the opposition shunts Lacson aside, it will be because of the realization that he has too much baggage. It's true that every candidate has "baggage," but it's a question of who has the lightest (to my mind, among the opposition presidentiables, Aquilino Pimentel has the least baggage, but can he win?). One problem for Lacson is that his own colleagues in the Senate do not regard him with respect, as gleaned from Senate Committee Report 237. Then too, another major problem is that the Supreme Court is poised to hand down its final decision denying his motion for reconsideration in the Kuratong Baleleng case. Last Tuesday's en banc session was postponed only to allow the two women justices, Consuelo Ynares Santiago and Angelina Sandoval Gutierrez, to write their dissenting opinions; from indications, they are the only dissenters.

* * *

Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, AFP vice chief of staff, Prof. Felipe Miranda, research director of Pulse Asia, and the story's writer herself, the multi-awarded columnist Ma. Ceres P. Doyo, all ended up complaining about the Sept. 26 headline story of this paper that said: "Poll: Mutineers justified." Their complaint centers on the slant that the Sept. 26 story gave when it said that 55 percent of Filipinos polled said the Oakwood mutineers' grievances constituted "a sufficient reason for the soldiers to rebel against the government." But as Garcia and Miranda pointed out, what the story buried in the last one-fourth portion was the fact that Filipinos "insist on constitutional approach to political change" and "do not support coups or mutinies against the government." Garcia pointed out that the survey said 39 percent regarded the mutiny as wrong, 22 percent that it was right, and 36 percent were undecided. He quoted Miranda as opining that the 55 percent vote constituted "more of sympathy" but that sympathy does not translate into support for mutinies. Miranda himself, in his letter to editor in chief Letty Magsanoc, stressed that the people's "constitutionalist mind-set" is also clear from the fact that a full 59 percent "disagree with having martial law solve the country's numerous crises."

* * *

I think our people's stand about violent coup d'etats and martial law has been clear from the beginning—they are against those, and God willing, will continue being against them. Our people know only too well that coups will lead to imposition of martial rule through a junta, and that abuses such as those in the Marcos regime can only result from juntas. Such military adventurism also damages our prospects for economic recovery, crippling our ability to catch up with the rest of our region; this can only hurt the poor among us.

Proof of the damage to the economy is the statement recently made by the prestigious international rating firm, Standard & Poor's (S & P), which had a generally positive outlook on most countries in the region, with the exception of three countries, one of them the Philippines. The S & P report, which was published ahead of the International Monetary Fund annual meeting in Dubai last week, stressed that, "The army mutiny in the Philippines (last July 27) highlights the widespread institutional weaknesses of the country." We also all remember how the failed coup attempts of Gregorio Honasan and company in the late '80s all hurt the economic recovery of the Philippines despite the vast international support for Edsa heroine Corazon Aquino.

The best thing is to make our democracy work by strengthening its institutions, such as our electoral system, civilian supremacy over the military and the checks and balances against graft and corruption. Definitely not through coups.

A mother's anguish in Davao

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

MATERNAL instinct prompted Gloria Reynoso to suspect that something wrong had befallen her 18-year-old daughter Marjorie, a Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) barangay chair in Maco, Compostela Valley province. Marjorie, together with Jonathan Benaro and Lito Doydoy, both leaders of the youth group Anakbayan, failed to go home last Sept. 19 after attending a party in Tagum City. Gloria tried several times to contact Marjorie's mobile phone but she could not be reached. Finally at past midnight, to Gloria's surprise, a male voice briefly answered from her daughter's mobile phone. The man was contemptuously laughing hard before switching off. A few minutes later, Gloria's phone rang and he heard the same "demon-like" sarcastic laugh at the other end of the line. She pleaded to the man: *"Huwag ninyong galawin ang anak ko. Ibalik niyo siya, buhay man o patay."*

Gloria's worst fear as a mother was confirmed last Sept. 24. Banana plantation workers discovered four decomposing bodies—a female and three males—at a shallow grave in Compostela town. Relatives identified the decomposing bodies to be those of the missing youth leaders. The fourth was that of Ramon Regase Jr., the tricycle driver who was hired by the three to drive them home before they were abducted by armed men near the Hijo Banana Plantation, a few kilometers away from a police outpost in Tagum City. The dead bodies bore several hack and bullet wounds. Marjorie's severed head was found near the shallow grave.

The deaths of young Marjorie and her companions, and the anguish it brought upon their parents, their mothers especially, may have not generated as much attention as the ongoing Kris-Joey *telenovela*. But the incident is a chilling reminder that, under the so-called "strong republic" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, in many places outside the metropolis, some kind of terror reigns.

Initial investigation made by the human rights group Karapatan has led to suspicions that the military or, at least, its agents might be involved in the killings. The four victims were reportedly abducted by an armed group allegedly led by one Willie Javier who is said to be a member of the Military Intelligence Group (MIG).

As expected, the military denied outright the allegation, although, an unnamed military officer was quoted by the local press as saying that Javier was a "former MIG agent." Curiously, the abduction and summary executions of the "Maco Four" happened after the Maco local government, the army and police units, reportedly launched a joint crusade to counter the growing presence and influence of communist rebels in the area. It was also in Maco in September last year where NPA rebels, using Maco Mayor Miller Alaba as "shield and bait," made a daring raid on the municipal hall's police station, carting away more than 30 firearms.

Gloria Reynoso has expressed fears that the violent deaths of the "Maco Four" might just become additional cold statistics in the list of unsolved crimes in Southern Mindanao, particularly those involving members of militant groups. Until now, the parents of Benjaline "Beng" Hernandez are still waiting for justice. The 22-year-old lass was killed, also along with three other villagers, allegedly by a joint Army and Cafgu team last April 5 in Arakan Valley, North Cotabato. At the time of her death, Hernandez was the deputy secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Mindanao and vice president for Mindanao of the College Editors' Guild of the Philippines.

* * *

In life and in death, slain broadcaster Juan "Jun" Pala proved to be a political cause célèbre in Davao City. Pala's murder became the rallying point of local media persons and organizations alarmed and outraged by the increasing number of journalists being killed all over the country.

Pala's death has also ignited a new round of verbal tussles between two former friends and allies but now bitter political foes—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and former mayor now Undersecretary Benjamin de Guzman. De Guzman has called for an independent investigation into the death of Pala—also a former ally who turned bitter critic of Duterte—and other summary executions in the city. His call prompted Duterte to accuse his former protégé of riding on the issue to revive his political career.

In his weekly television program, Duterte, apparently irked by critics calling the city as "murder capital," openly admitted that a "reign of terror" does exist in Davao City. "Murder capital? Fine. Those criminals, kidnappers, holduppers, drug pushers from other places, come over because I'll finish you off. This is murder city," he said during his Sept. 21 program, claiming that only criminals are getting killed in the city.

"Tolerating summary killings of alleged criminals is just a step away from summary killings for personal motives. It is an inevitable precursor to anarchy. Was Jun Pala a victim of this anarchy?" De Guzman wrote in his open letter to Duterte dated Sept. 21.

* * *

While in the middle of all this, the bereaved families of the murder victims sadly wait for justice.

* * *

Comments to karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

'Saling-pusa' at a moribund Security Council

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

1945 was a very long time ago. The world was such a different place that most nations, including the Philippines, ratified a patently outrageous proposition which is now at the core of what the politically pious call "the rule of international law through multilateralism."

Five victorious nations of World War II—China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the United States—became permanent members of the Security Council. They were each granted "veto power" over the UN—the exclusive and permanent privilege to unilaterally nullify the expressed will, even of the entire world, for any reason whatsoever by simply vetoing any resolution of the UN Security Council. So says the UN Charter, which is conveniently confounded with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

How many nations would agree to grant such veto power over the fate and fortune of the world's peace and security again to those five nations? (Well, maybe those five!) For window dressing, 10 other nations are selected periodically to join the five permanent members—a dubious honor and *saling-pusa* privilege that the Philippines may soon enjoy for a year starting in 2004, thanks to the million-dollar diplomatic blitzkrieg of press-fleshing, knee-bending, eye-winking, elbow-rubbing and horse trading at coffees for Kofi at the United Nations in New York. But I think we will be in the last few batches of temporary members under the post-1945 arrangement—the wake for a moribund Security Council that is in an evolutionary cul-de-sac.

I say that the UN Security Council must go extinct to make way for a fitter institution with more logical and appropriate composition, powers and role in the world. Nothing could be plainer than that there is no longer anything special or worthy of distinction in the particular set of five nations that have the veto power. Of course, the Security Council could adopt a simple democratic principle like "one nation, one vote" and periodically elect a Security Council from General Assembly. But that would require abolition of the veto and permanent membership. Recent proposals to dilute the veto power, such as by requiring at least two vetoes to kill a UN resolution, are interesting but will require a major UN charter change and a lot of time.

Until a fit replacement is worked out by the international community, it behooves the Philippines to chart an independently-minded course and not lash our *banca* to some modern rendition of the old League of Nations. I think the UN Security Council is the sinking mother ship of a dodo-bird multilateralism—a "rule of many sides" that only has five laterals or sides. This pentagon could be more like a round circular table if all nations were true, functioning democracies like the United States and Great Britain, and shared a common vision of their independent but parallel existences as nation-states on one indivisible planet. But here is a question. Human beings who inhabit those nation-states clearly have rights endowed by their simple membership in the human species—a fact from biology that has best been implemented as social and political rights of human beings in the democracies of the world. But do nation-states have social and political rights in the same manner? What are they and how should they be enforced?

For those beset by feelings of guilt that giving up on the UN as an instrument of world peace and security would be like apostasizing from Roman Catholicism as a vehicle for salvation—fear not. The UN was a spectacular failure at keeping the peace—long, long before Iraq.

Keeping the peace among its members, is the prime directive of the UN Security Council, its reason for existing. But how effective has it been? Consider the facts. Since 1945 there have been over 60 major wars and deadly armed conflicts involving almost all UN members, including the permanent five. How many of these wars would be considered "legally and morally justified" because multilateralism was upheld and the United Nations reached consensus to wage those wars? Of the 60, only two were "legal and moral" in the insane sense that no veto was cast by a permanent member of the UN Security Council. They are the Korean War of the 1950s (the Resolution was passed while the Russian delegate was in the CR!); and the Persian Gulf War of 1990. Both of those UN-sanctioned wars produced Kim Il-sung and son whose North Korea still groans in famine while they build nuclear weapons; and Saddam Hussein, the biggest weapon of mass destruction against Muslims that has not yet been found in Iraq.

I'm glad. If he is captured alive, Saddam should be tried in Halabja and then Nuremberg, to remind everyone that even unilateral war on genocidal maniacs and fascist dictators is always a victory for humanity and always morally justified. So says St. Augustine.

Multilateralism has become a politically correct code word for anti-Americanism and anti-imperialism. It has a nice, hollow ring. It suggests that a rule of the many is at play, whereas anything a lone superpower does that Chirac or Russia or China disagree with, is surely a form of evil unilateralism. I reject this view. Until a better multilateral order can be reached among the disunited nations of the world, the Philippines is better off strengthening bilateral ties with the democratic devils that it knows. *(Visit my personal web log at http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

Male nudity

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

IT never fails.

Whenever the INQUIRER publishes photos of men or women in skimpy clothing or in a state of near nakedness, I get varied reactions from the readers. There is something about the exposure of the human body (except of babies) that seems to encourage the readers to write or e-mail me their reaction to it.

The "conservatives" think pictures of those nature are better left to the tabloids, not to a family newspaper like the INQUIRER. The "liberals," on the other hand, express their appreciation for those photos and commend the newspaper for its open-mindedness.

Last Sept. 13, the cover page of the Saturday Super section of the newspaper featured a half-page photo of a man looking sidewise whose back was turned to the camera. He appeared naked from the neck to the lower part of his torso. The photo did not bear any caption. The words "exposé, xposé, posé, osé, sé, é" were written in black and red bold letters beside the picture.

A reader, Oliver Tuazon, found the picture discomforting. He wrote: "I've been noticing that the moral quality of the Lifestyle and similar sections of your newspaper, which I highly respect for (their) relative good taste and professionalism, has been going down. But your recent (Sept. 13) Saturday Super section has caused me to set aside some time to react on its offensive contents before we end up seeing completely naked bodies in your newspaper one day, as the trend seems to suggest.

Message

"On page one of that section, you find a naked man and part of his behind was shown. In the inside page, you find photos of naked men covering their private parts with a magazine bearing the photo of a woman. On the cover page of that section, there are 10 items with no heading from its source which state, among others, 'conformity is the new rebellion,' 'decency is the new decadence,' and 'sex is still better than chocolate.'

"I wonder what the staff would like to convey in this supposedly 'super' section. With the recent call on responsible broadcast media brought about by the 'Morning Girls' hearing in Congress, I guess we also have to call for a more responsible print media. The media should be concerned, as they try to gain profit, in safeguarding the moral fiber of our society.

"What values are we transmitting to the next generation? That it is all right to expose the intimate parts of a person in print media and say that 'decency is the new decadence?' A society that is built on vice (e.g., indecency) and not virtue (e.g., decency) is seeking its own ruin."

This letter reminded me of a reader who was scandalized to see the provocative photos of a popular young star in the INQUIRER several months ago. To keep pictures of those nature away from the eyes of her teenaged children, the reader said she "censors" the newspaper first before she allows her kids to read it. That means waking up early in the morning ahead of her children.

Following the INQUIRER's procedure in the handling of complaints about the newspaper's contents, I requested the editor concerned to respond to the reader's complaint.

Morality

She explained that "the 'naked' man on the front page was not naked at all. He was wearing an underwear. That picture was a play on the section's theme, 'Exposé.' The men in the picture accompanying the article about Cosmopolitan magazine's centerfolds were not naked. They were wearing undergarments.

"The magazines the men were holding are copies of Cosmopolitan, a magazine dedicated to empowering the Filipino woman. The photos were not intended to be offensive. They may show more skin than your usual newspaper photos (yes, the guys are shirtless), but we do not see how morally damaging that is when you see the same amount of skin in gyms, TV shows, commercials and billboards all over the city.

"The 10 items are exposés listed by the staff of Super. The statement 'rebellion is the new conformity' is about how everyone wants to be an individual and that people are the same when it comes to wanting to be unique. They are not meant to be offensive at all.

"We are sorry if Mr. Tuazon feels that our content is offensive. But we believe that morality is relative and is affected by movements in the society. In recent years, young people have been more vocal and open to discussing issues that have been previously taboo. We do not see this as demoralization, but as progress.

"The world is dynamic and constantly changing—those who cannot move with the wheel will end up being squashed by it. Perhaps, this is not a question of morality, but a question of facing reality with an open mind."

Opinion

I reprinted the editor's comments and did not summarize them as I used to do before because I was afraid I might miss something in the restatement process. The editor's explanation strikes me as an honest expression of her thoughts about nudity vis-à-vis morality.

This time, for a change, I will not make an evaluation of the opposing points of view. I understand where the parties are coming from. Their respective backgrounds may have something to do with their appreciation of the contents of the section in question.

I have learned from my past interaction with the readers that morality is a very contentious subject matter. It always invites sharp discussion and, often, disagreement.

I know that there are some rules on morality that are constant or do not change with the times. But figuring out what those immutable principles is not an easy task.

With the readers' indulgence, I am leaving it to them to decide which view on morality is, in their opinion, correct. I shall appreciate the readers sharing their thoughts with this column. The newspaper will surely pick up nuggets of wisdom from them.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Too many generals very costly

I START the day reading the INQUIRER. Conrado de Quiros' column last Sept. 24 was germane to our present situation.

Why must we have so many generals in the Armed Forces and in the police force? Today, it seems there are even more generals than authorized positions. Yes, we may justify the present strength of the military and police, but why bloat the roster of "star" or general officers? Even their spokesperson is a two-star general officer. Can't a more articulate captain or major do this task?

The total budget for personal services, including pension and retirement benefits for all these generals constitute a major portion of the annual budget. In addition, all colonels, upon retirement, get the salary and benefits of a star or general officer. And the total increases with each passing year. The Department of Budget and Management can certify to these. What a huge drain on the scarce resources of the police and military.

Who will take the initiative for change? A defense secretary coming from the military is more inclined than a civilian defense secretary to appoint more generals. It seems that the "customs of the service" dictate that all members of a PMA class should be promoted to "star" or general rank, when their mistah becomes AFP chief of staff or PNP chief.

I fully agree with the observation that the budget for a top-heavy command structure eats up funds better used for updated organizational equipment and adequate support for operations.

—**ERNIE SARMIENTO,**
45 Scout de Guia,
Quezon City

Bad influence

THE ONLY thing good about Kris Aquino is that she is consistent—consistently immoral. I would like to suggest that she stop coming out in the media to make people feel sorry for her.

I have received comments from many mothers who feel that she is a danger to their own young daughters' minds considering the bad influence she has with her advertisements, talk shows and game shows.

—**MARISSA DE GUZMAN,**
33 Madison St.,
North Greenhills, San Juan, MM

LETTERS

Timely awards

THE AWARDING of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines is very timely toward the realization of Dr. Jose Rizal's dream of the "youth as the hope of our fatherland."

Awards like this are a "spur" to our youth to excel more in their chosen fields of endeavor.

It would be better if our civic-oriented citizens and organizations will work hand-in-hand with the youth of our land to coach and guide them to be the future leaders of our nation.

—**MELY ENRIQUEZ-ROSARIO,**
AdPrint Services Inc.,
Bangkal, Makati City

A sickness called rumor-mongering

WE are again undergoing a test of endurance. There are some groups who are out there enticing others to circulate coup rumors. These people are agitating our soldiers to do such action and encourage our people to support it. Are they not going to stop? What good will it bring to our nation?

Rumor-mongering is a sickness that needs to be cured. And what better method of cure than to be aware of what is happening around us.

Our best defense lies in the vigilance of each and every citizen. Let us closely coordinate with our local government units, the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Let's discourage those who are involved in the campaign to spread rumors and efforts to destabilize the government.

Let us be responsible citizens and do what is right!

—**AMELIA R. DE ROSOS,**
Bangkal, Makati City

Tax privilege speeches

I AM most concerned in the overspending of our government that I am forced to make a suggestion for additional tax.

Congress has become the venue for character assassination.

I therefore suggest taxing all privilege speeches.

As to how this can be done, let members of Congress rack their brains to formulate this law.

—**ROMEO D.R. Manojo,**
1032 Valdez St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Present at the cockfight derby to visit, not gamble

RE the front-page item titled "Nikki, govs steal show in cockfight derby."

For the record, please inform your readers:

1. I am not and have never been a gambler or a big-time bettor of any sort.

2. I do not and did not have my own *kristo* and *casador*.

3. Your correspondent, Juan Escandor Jr., did not even bother to check who were doing the betting and immediately concluded I was. He did not even bother to find out whose money was on the table and immediately concluded it was mine. It was not.

4. Gov. Al Bichara of Albay was mentioned to be present. He was not there.

I look at gamecock fighting and breeding as a sport, a business undertaking, a venue for social and political networking, a national pastime deeply rooted in our culture.

I have been to cockfights over the years as a spectator and have always admired the beauty of the gamecocks' feathers and their fighting warriors' hearts. The skill of the *kristos* in memorizing different faces, bets, odds, etc. has never failed to amaze me.

The gambling aspect in gamecock fighting is no different from the gambling going in basketball, golf, boxing, billiards, horseracing and other sports. I do not engage in gambling. Last Sept. 18, the Caceres Sports Arena was filled to the rafters with avid aficionados, simple lovers of gamecock fighting and curious visitors from all over the country who were there for the Peñafrancia Festival.

I was fortunate to have been invited to the derby with other friends from Manila.

I also made many acquaintances, exchanged views, learned more about the game and shared the excitement with aficionados, some of whom were handlers, businessmen, promoters, local officials etc. from many other towns and provinces, and the simple and friendly common folk who communicated well with me and whose sincerity and warmth I genuinely felt.

Many of my closest friends all over the country, some relatives in Negros Occidental and Iloilo where I trace my roots, and respected business, media and political figures are successful breeders and lovers of the sport like some 10 million other Filipinos.

As an aside, I recall and realize how gamecock breeding and its allied businesses have helped many families and communities survive extremely depressed economic times.

Now that your paper has written this up, I have, in the last few days, received 16 invitations nationwide from civic groups, local officials, businessmen, breeders and cockfighting aficionados to grace their fiestas and derbies. I thank them for having done so.

—**NIKKI COSETENG,**
Unit 1610, Sunset View Towers,
2230 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

Is patriotism for sale?

I AM surprised at how money can change the attitude of people toward our own country.

When I joined the protest movement in 1979 against the Marcos dictatorship as a human rights lawyer, I joined because that was the righteous and just thing to do at that time for my country. I didn't ask for any compensation. I utilized my law office at Sta. Mesa, Manila, all my personnel therein and all my resources under my command. All the multinational clients that I had before entering the protest movement were lost resulting in great financial difficulties for me. But I did not complain.

In fact, on hindsight, I can say that the grave illness of my beloved wife due to anxiety, tension and apprehension for my safety was caused by my being with the protest movement and resulted in her early death.

Now I am surprised why my fellow activists, both above ground and underground, are now haggling and fighting for the Marcos loot to pay for their "sacrifices."

I ask them now, is their patriotism for sale?

As Andres Bonifacio, the father of the Philippine Revolution, aptly said: *"Anong pag-ibig pa ang hihigit kaya sa pagkadakila kundi ang pag-ibig sa tinubuang lupa. Wala na nga, wala."*

If the claimants would like to really help our country, they can donate their claims, when paid, to the government and monitor the payment to the landowners for the land that will be distributed free to the tenant-farmers. The landowners can then invest in industries that will generate employment for the workers. This will result in great poverty alleviation for millions of our suffering masses.

—**PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,**
president, Nagmamalasakit na mga Mananaggol ng mga Manggagawang Pilipino Inc., 919-A Vicente Cruz St.,
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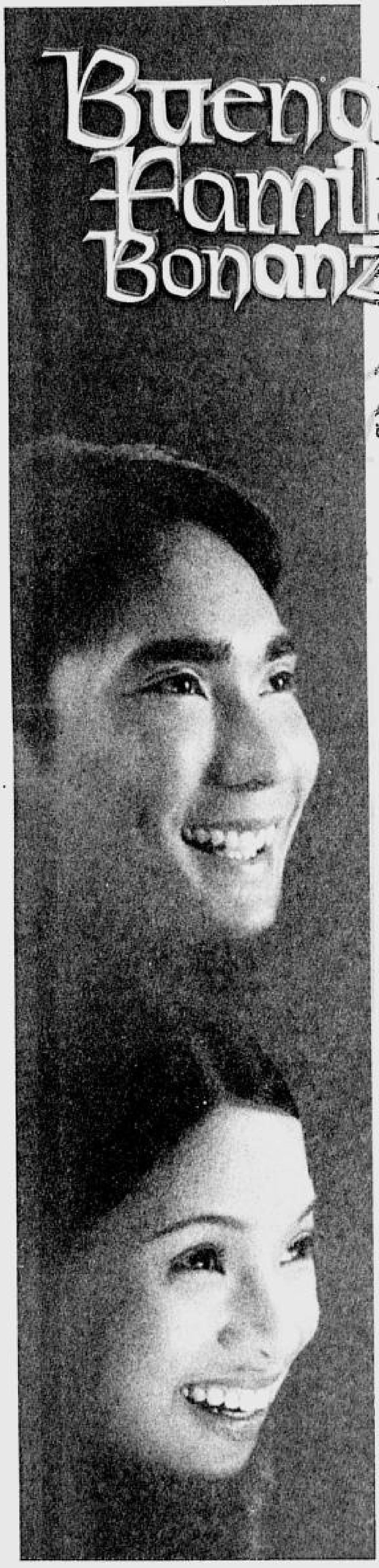

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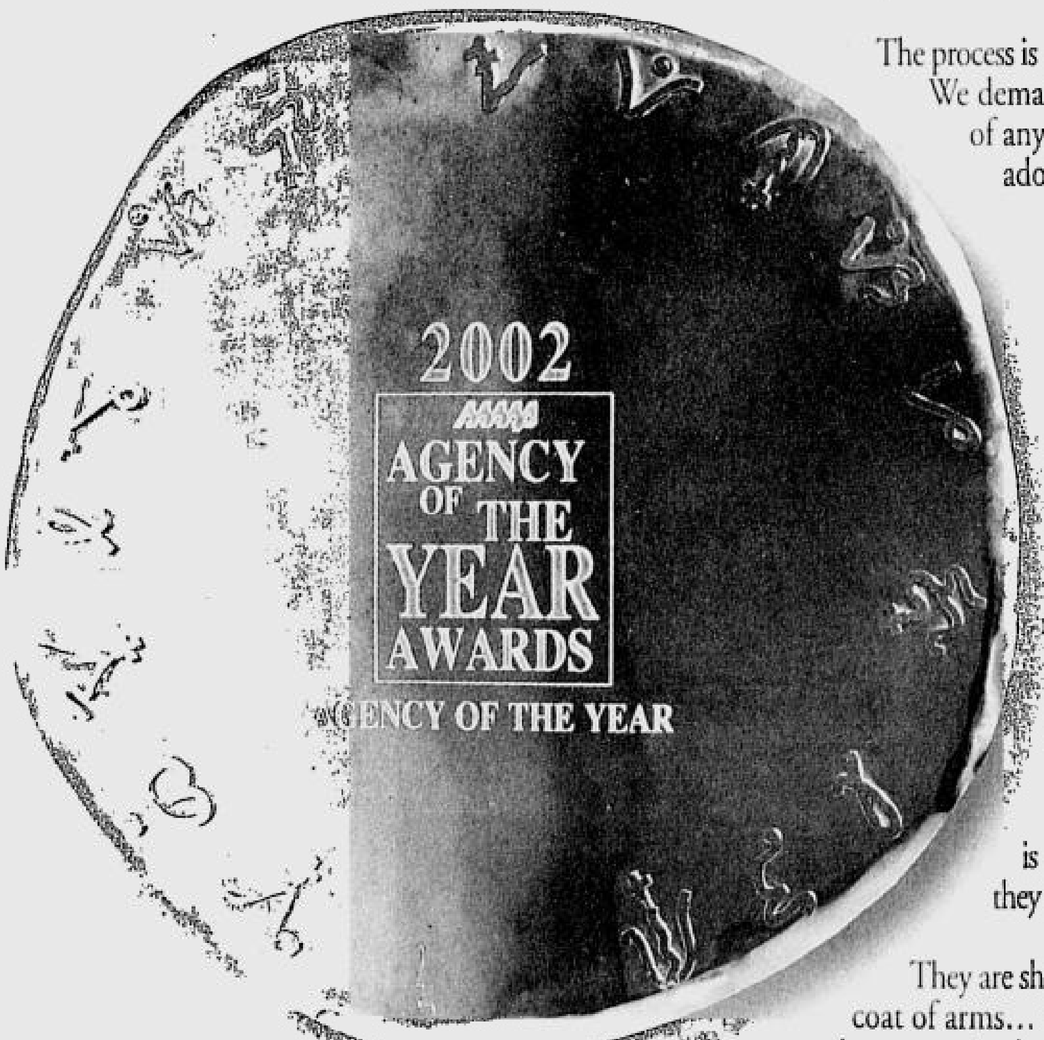
A meeting is called to review what we have accomplished for the year that just whizzed by.
We fret that we have not done enough; not by half.

We take deep breaths and exhale slowly. After a few minutes of reflection,
the assignments are made.
By teams, we offer to gather the data, do the drafts and make the recommendations.

Not long after, it is time to decide on the best of our best. The buzz is a discernible current now, as we argue and compare.

A consensus is reached! Now our focus shifts to a single output: success cases whose facts speak for themselves, and a creative sampling that demonstrates the breadth of our clientele and the variety of media we use to deliver on the goals.



The process is not unlike the one we employ for our clients. We demand that fresh incisive thinking be the core of any proposal, that truth be its singular adornment, and collaboration its polish.

Our entry goes off on the wings of a collective mantra. If we deserve to, we will win.

This year, as in the past, not everyone could make it to the awards night, but our spirits were in full attendance. In between bursts of humor and prayer, we silently prepared to lose with grace, but were graced with victory instead.

Contests are always nerve-wracking. But they're toughest for the leader.

To take top recognition five times in six years is not easy. You see, the silver discs don't only shine, they weigh, and heavily, on those who win them.

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Top Mindanao NPA leader surrenders to military

DAVAO CITY—A local leader of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered to authorities last week.

The guerrilla leader was identified as Dionisio Tungco alias Commander Bebit, alleged head of the NPA's Front Committee 3 of the Southern Mindanao Guerrilla Unit operating in the provinces of Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the 5th Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, said Tungco gave up to Col. Rodolfo Obaniana, 701st Infantry Brigade commander.

Adriatico said two other NPA rebels also surrendered but he failed to reveal their names.

Tungco and his companions turned over their M-16 Armalite rifles, a Thompson sub-machine gun, and a .45 cal. pistol.

The NPA leader reportedly joined the underground movement in 1978 and later rose to NPA leadership. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Army says it's spying on youths' 'misbehavior'

DAVAO CITY—The military admitted it has been spying on activists to ensure they are not, according to military officials' words, misbehaving.

Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, chief of the military's Civil Relations Group for Southeastern Mindanao, however said there is no military plot to abduct militants.

He said there was also no plan to arrest them on trumped up charges.

"We are (only) monitoring them in case they commit misdemeanors," Adriatico told reporters during Thursday's AFP-PNP press conference at the Davao City Police Office.

He said an arrest would only come when militants commit unlawful acts. Adriatico did not elaborate.

Adriatico's admission came in the wake of charges hurled by militant groups such as Karapatan and Anakbayan that the military has been tailing their members.

The military's spying according to the militant groups has sent fear among their members, particularly after the abduction and killing of three youth leaders in Compostela Valley.

Karapatan has blamed the Military Intelligence Group (MIG) for the "death by torture" of youth leaders Marjorie Reynoso, Jonathan Benaro, Lito Doydoy and motorcycle driver Ramon Regase.

The four victims were abducted by armed men, led by alleged MIG asset Willy Jorolan, also known as Willy Javier, near the Hijo plantation in Maco town Saturday last week.

The decomposing bodies of the victims were found in a shallow grave inside the Selecta Banana Plantation in Barangay Quarry in Maco on Tuesday.

Based on initial investigation, the four victims had been stabbed, shot and strangled—signs they were tortured according to the police.

Jeppie Ramada, spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), described the military's surveillance operation as illegal.

"We have not committed any crime. We decry this move to put us under surveillance," Ramada said.

He said Adriatico's admission only puts weight on the culpability of the military on the death of the Maco victims.

"There are signs that the military desperately wanted to silence us to hide the truth about the issue of the Maco 4 Massacre. If anything happens to us and the rest of Bayan forces, we will hold Col. Adriatico liable," Ramada, also Anakbayan vice president for Mindanao, said.

Davao City Councilor Angela Librado, meanwhile said, she would ask the Regional Peace and Order Council to conduct an independent investigation of the killing of the youth leaders in Maco.

"If these were done on youth leaders, how safe are the ordinary youths?" Librado asked.

She also criticized the reported surveillance and harassment of members of militant youth organizations. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ilocos provinces find ways around tobacco tax delay

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Rather than continue harping at "R.A. seven-awan seven-awan," tobacco-growing provinces are biting at every scheme to redeem their long-overdue tobacco tax shares from Malacañang.

Republic Act 7171, or the law that provides beneficiary provinces an amount equivalent to 15 percent of the excise taxes on locally produced Virginia-type cigarettes, has been playfully called "R.A. , seven-awan seven-awan (*awan* is Ilocano for nothing)" because tobacco shares have stopped flowing since 2001.

The provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra and La Union still have to collect overdue tobacco shares of P1.85 billion representing the unreleased share for 2001 and 2002.

But since the Department of Budget and Management is hard up in releasing the funds directly to the beneficiaries, the four provinces have agreed to "monetize" their receivables.

The scheme meant that the national government contracted a loan from the Land Bank of the Philippines to use as payment for the provinces' tobacco shares.

The provinces, however, are only entitled to receive only 75 percent of their allocation as the 25 percent will be spent for bank charges and other costs in securing the loan.

"We figured that if we are going to get 75 percent, that would mean a great deal of money for all the provinces," said Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The reported release of the tobacco tax funds came at a time when the tobacco industry is at its low.

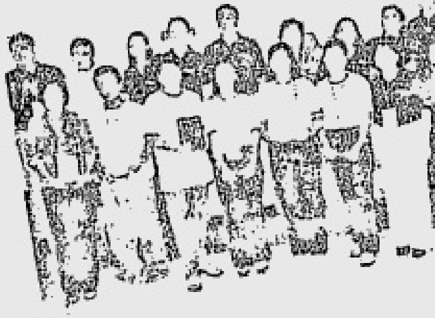
Tobacco farmers in the Ilocos region failed to recoup their investments during the last cropping season when traders refused to buy their tobacco supposedly due to high salinity.

The tobacco funds will be distributed to congressional districts (40 percent), towns or cities (30 percent) and the provinces (30 percent).

Marcos said he started proposing the scheme to his fellow governors in 2001 after an "unfruitful meeting" over the payment of remaining shares with Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

Boncodin was supposed to have told Marcos that it was difficult to release the funds due to the budget deficit and other funding priorities of the central government.

A memorandum of understanding was subsequently signed among the governors of the four provinces, the Department of Finance, LBP and DBM. The governors are expecting the release of the tobacco tax shares before yearend.



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Coco farmers ask GMA to use levy for them

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Leaders of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc. (CIRMI) are calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to ensure that the government allocates the billions of pesos in coco levy funds to improve the plight of coconut farmers and not serve the private interest of a few.

Oscar Santos and Joey Faustino, CIRMI chair and executive director, said programs and projects should be put in place to benefit about 3.4 million small coconut farmers in the country.

Faustino said funds for these projects could be taken from the P1-billion interest from the coconut levy shares in San Miguel Corp.

Faustino was with Santos last week as guests of the Paghiliusa sa Paghidaet Negros that marked the 31st anniversary of martial law with the theme "Memory, truth telling and the pursuit of justice: Crony capitalism and the plunder of the sugar and coconut industries."

The CIRMI is a coalition of six nongovernmental organizations and three peasant federations that are pushing for reforms in the coconut industry.

The Sandiganbayan earlier declared as public fund the coconut levy fund, which was collected from coconut farmers from 1973 to 1983.

The coco levy funds were used to acquire shares in SMC as well as to put up the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB).

Faustino, also UCPB director, said injustice was done to the coconut farmers during the martial law years when "the toils of their labor were levied."

But 31 years after the declaration of martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, he said these coconut farmers had not seen the benefits in the improvement of their industry.

Faustino said President Macapagal should fulfill her promise in her July 28 State of the Nation Address that the government now had the capacity to help coconut farmers following the Sandiganbayan decision.

"I will make sure that those who benefit from the coconut levy funds are the small farmers," Faustino quoted Ms Macapagal as saying.

He said the funds in the UCPB should be used for the benefit of the coconut industry as a whole and not for its private claimants.

But he pointed out that the UCPB, which was supposedly established for the coconut farmers, had 11 entities controlling 30 million of its shares or 77.9 percent of the bank's equity based on the report of the Commission on Audit.

Business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. had the most at 54,117,421 followed by his Cojuangco-owned company ECJ and Sons Agri Enterprises at 54,678,043.

The other shareholders were J. Pineda Jr., 37,905,247 shares; N. Pineda, 37,478,006; D. Urasa, 37;553,476; Balete Ranch Inc., 14,786,584; Cristenses Plantation Co., 9,166,660; Kabankalan Sugar, 701,000; Zamboanga Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, 2,301,000; ACCRA Investment Corp., 14,009,883; and Jaka Investments, 7,495,488.

Witness absence making vigilante killings hard to solve, says CHR exec

DAVAO CITY—The Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Southern Mindanao on Wednesday said the series of killings here attributed to the so-called Davao Death Squad (DDS) was difficult to solve because of lack of witnesses.

As this developed, a legislator called on the police "to just do its job" or he would propose an inquiry on the vigilante-style killings of suspected criminals, which have also been occurring in other parts of the region.

"We have not come across solid evidence about the identity of the culprits in the killings, since there are no witnesses willing enough to come out in the open," Alberto Sipaco Jr., CHR regional director, said.

Sipaco's statement came after motorcycle-riding armed men gunned down another crime suspect on Tuesday night.

Mario Dron, 46, a motorcycle driver in Tacunan, Tugbok District, was waiting for passengers around 8:40 p.m. when four suspects on board two motorcycles approached him and gunned him down.

Dron, who was convicted of murder in 1987, became the 71st victim of the shadowy vigilante group here since January.

On Sunday night, a suspected drug user, Randy Alcain, 22, was also gunned down by motorcycle-riding suspects inside a store near GAP Farm in Barangay Maa.

Alcain was also reportedly involved in a string of robberies.

"The killings are quite alarming," Sipaco said.

City police director Senior Supt. Conrado Laza had admitted the killings were on the rise.

Like Sipaco, he said the lack of witnesses has been hampering investigations.

The spate of killings prompted several officials to comment that the city was becoming the country's murder capital.

To which Mayor Rodrigo Duterte retorted: "Murder capital? Good. By all means let's all kill the criminals and be the murder capital of the country."

He said he does not mind if critics label his governance as "a reign of terror" for as long as criminals were the ones being killed.

Duterte has been issuing pronouncements, which boosted rumors he was behind the DDS.

But Sipaco said Duterte had not directly admitted his links with the summary executions. *Dennis Jay C. Santos with a report from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lawmen say congested jail proof of their success

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Central Mindanao claimed that its detention cell here has become overcrowded because of its successful antidrug operations.

Supt. Efren Alcuizar, PDEA regional chief, said they were having difficulty in maintaining the cleanliness of the detention center because of the congestion.

The PDEA detention cell here, where drug suspects were being kept pending the resolution of the charges filed against them, could only accommodate a maximum of 10 prisoners.

But Alcuizar said 24 inmates have to share the limited space, which makes it difficult for the PDEA to maintain hygiene in the detention cell.

As this developed, Alcuizar said another proof of the PDEA's successful antidrugs drive was the increasing number of charges being filed by his office.

He said since the national crackdown on illegal drugs was implemented in the region, the regional PDEA office already filed more than 300 drug-related cases.

He boasted that their intensified campaign led to the declaration of Sarangani as the country's first ever drug-free province.

On Wednesday last week, police Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay led the official declaration of Sarangani as a drug-free province.

Aglipay also officiated the oath taking of the 385 erstwhile drug users and pushers who organized themselves into a group called Sarangani Crusaders Against Illegal Drugs (SCAID).

The former drug pushers and users vowed to help the government in fighting the drug menace.

Sarangani Gov. Miguel Escobar directed the provincial social welfare office to include SCAID members in a livelihood program funded by the German government. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 504 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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‘Probe Team’ fears …

From page A1

said. “Perhaps the network was afraid of the backlash and worried that there was a perception of censorship. They think it was us who inflicted this problem.”

Lazaro, the source said, was also made to promise “to keep quiet” on the axing of the show and not to talk to media.

As of press time, Lazaro was in Boston and could not be reached on her cell phone. “I don’t think it has sunk in for her and everything is in limbo. Because it was all verbal and there are issues to be resolved about the contract,” the source said.

But before she left, Lazaro met with her staff. “She said, ‘I fought on a matter of principles. I will not beg for airtime,’” the source said.

If the break between GMA 7 and The Probe Team becomes final, “it will be out of mutual consent between both parties, out of respect and high regard for each other,” Raquel said.

The controversial episode was not shown the other week after the network said the episode lacked documentary evidence on Genuino. On Tuesday, the episode was finally aired but the controversy did not end there.

At the end of Tuesday’s “Saksi,” anchor Arnold Clavio read a statement from GMA 7 management which said the episode still did not prove Genuino owned shares in several corporations that he did not declare in his statements of assets and liabilities for February 2001, December 2001 and December 2002.

After Clavio read the statement, the camera panned to co-anchor Bernadette Sembrano who had worked on the Genuino story. Sembrano looked visibly upset over the statement.

While the credits for the show were rolling, Sembrano handed her papers to Clavio and walked away from the set. “It was obvious that she (Sembrano) was upset at what happened,” the source said.

Sembrano has since stopped anchoring for “Saksi” and the network’s weekend news breaks. She is set to meet with network officials today. There is talk of a possible suspension.

POPE John Paul II looks on during his meeting with President Macapagal at the Vatican. He appeared in relatively good form three days after canceling his weekly general audience due to illness. REUTERS

Pope lauds RP ‘Church of the poor’

From page A1

but embraces all people regardless of economic class or social standing,” the Pope said, adding that a real Church of the poor must be one wherein “the poor are welcomed, listened to and actively involved.”

“A true Church of the poor contributes much to the needed transformation of society, to social renewal based on the vision and values of the Gospel,” he said.

That Church should give “preferential attention” to the poor, and seek to share time and resources in order to alleviate their suffering, the Pope said. He said “it should also work with all sectors of society, including the poor themselves, in search of solutions to the problems of poverty, in order to free people from lives of misery and want.”

Evangelization

According to the CBCP, the Pope reminded the bishops that the Church make use of the talents and gifts of the poor, relying on them in the mission of evangelization.

The Filipino bishops formed the first of three groups from the Philippines that are making their “ad Limina Apostolorum” visit to Rome over the next two months. The visit, required of all bishops, is actually a pilgrimage to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome.

The CBCP said the Pope’s message to become the Church of the poor “is heeded.”

“The challenges given by the Holy Father are gladly accepted and with God’s grace, would be fulfilled,” it said in a statement issued by its secretary general, Msgr. Hernando Coronel.

In another statement, the CBCP reminded politicians preparing for next year’s elections of the virtue of “self-sacrifice” as “paramount in the transformation of political life in the country.”

“The nation is ever in need of dedicated laymen and women who would put not themselves or their interests first but the common good above all, especially the pro-poor agenda and the anti-poverty priority,” said Coronel.

San Lorenzo Ruiz

He said politicians and aspiring ones should emulate the example of the “model lay person,” San Lorenzo Ruiz, the country’s first saint, whose feast was celebrated yesterday.”

A catechist and missionary, Ruiz and his five Spaniard and Japanese companions were martyred during a persecution of Christians in Nagasaki, Japan in 1637. He was canonized saint by Pope John Paul II in 1987.

Like St. Lorenzo, Coronel said, those who want to serve in the government should also offer themselves to Christ. He said St. Lorenzo “is worth emulating as he rose above petty concerns, narrow viewpoints and parochial interests to focus on those that matter most.”

The CBCP official said all lay people should espouse social transformation as part of the Church’s renewal efforts.

“Social transformation is a priority for Church renewal and this task has been entrusted to lay people. The bishops support and strengthen the exercise of the gifts and charisms of lay people for the fulfillment of their role as co-responsible agents of renewal of the society,” Coronel said.

He said the laity should engage in dialogues concerning social, economic, political and cultural issues. An even active role of women in the Church and society, he said, also needed to be promoted. *Jerome Aning*

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‘Don’t make a heroine out of Kris’

From page A1

do what they [should] to heal and recover.”

While it was true that “giving something back” could be very empowering, Claudio said it shouldn’t be “limited to being all over the media espousing the cause or joining a crisis center.”

Victims of domestic violence had no “moral debt to society,” she stressed. “*Wala silang kasalanan* (it is not their fault). If they want to go back to their old life, fine. They don’t need to talk to the media.”

Claudio, who has been counseling women in similar abusive situations for the past 15 years, said it was “healthier” for such women to move on instead of confining their identities to being victims. “[Otherwise] they learn to bask in the attention, the sympathy and the perks, and continue to [recount] their victimhood again and again to whoever is willing to listen.”

Personally, she added, “I would want Kris to go beyond being Kris the victim to becoming Kris, the [public figure]. Why, I’d even settle for her reverting to her old self as the Kris, the actress who irritates me!”

Seriously, Claudio said she hoped “something positive” would come out of Kris’ revelations. “The Teresa Carlson domestic abuse case and suicide (in November 2001) similarly created a stir but nothing came out of it,” she recalled.

She urged the public to “listen to what Kris and the other victims of domestic abuse are telling us about society. But please, let’s not turn them into heroes.”

Blessing in disguise

In Cotabato City, a Church leader said the much-talked about split and the inevitable washing of dirty linen in public was a blessing in disguise.

Because of the incident, Protestant Pastor Leo Mallorca said, the two protagonists have become excellent examples for their legion of fans not to emulate.

Mallorca said Kris’ blatant admission of having illicit relations with a married man might have been just shocking news or entertaining diversion to many people, but not to the religious community.

It was certainly no laughing matter, Mallorca said. “We were saddened by their bold [statements].” But “disgusted” as they were about the controversial affair, he said religious leaders were looking at Aquino’s on-cam confession as a boon to the faithful majority.

Many would be discouraged from treading the same path of sin, he said. *With a report from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ADB/COFILCO SEMINAR ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FILIPINO CONSULTING SERVICES

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Confederation of Filipino Consulting Organizations (COFILCO)** will be sponsoring a **Seminar on the Development of Filipino Consulting Services** at The Astoria Plaza, J. Escriva Drive (formerly Amber Avenue), Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The two-day Seminar will open at 8:30 AM on the 9th and end at 4:30 PM on the 10th of October. Registration of participants will start at 7:30 AM on the 9th.

The Seminar is aimed at helping Filipino consultants, both firms and individuals, gain access to the ADB market for consulting services in the form of technical assistance and loan-funded projects. The Seminar will comprise of a variety of lectures on ADB policies and procedures in the procurement of consulting services, starting from registration of consultants to the evaluation of technical and financial proposals and contract negotiations using the Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method, which was recently adopted by ADB as the default mode of consultant selection.

At noon of the second day of the Seminar, COFILCO will be launching its web-based **Registry of Filipino Consultants** (firms and individuals) according to their fields of specialization. This Registry will be used by the Pre-qualification, Evaluation and Award Committees (PEVACs) of departments, agencies, and corporations of the Philippine Government for their consulting requirements, as mandated by *Executive Order (EO) 164 and 40*. Heads of PEVACs of Philippine Government agencies have been invited to witness the event.

The Seminar is open to Filipino consulting firms and individuals at a fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for consulting firms and individuals belonging to COFILCO member organizations and Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00) for non-members. The Seminar fee includes meals and snacks for two days and a conference kit containing relevant ADB information materials.

Interested parties are requested to make reservations at the following numbers: Ms. Rosemarie Bohol, COFILCO Secretariat, Suite 813, Future Point Plaza Condominium I, 112 Panay Ave., Quezon City/Tel. No. 412-3012/Fax No. 412-3013/e-mail: cofilco@yahoogroups.com or Ms. Ana Celina A. Baluyut, Pacific Rim Innovation and Management Exponents, Inc. (PRIMEX), 502 Manila Luxury Condominium, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Tel. Nos: 633-3717/633-9052/634-5135/Fax No.. 634-5135/e-mail: primexinc@primexinc.org

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Lakas, NPC leaders set talks on fate of House coalition

THE RULING Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats will hold emergency talks with the Nationalist People's Coalition this week to avert the collapse of the sunshine coalition in the House of Representatives.

Lakas executive director Jose Rufino said that if the NPC agrees to join the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino and other opposition parties in a grand coalition for the 2004 polls, "this would mean the end of the sunshine coalition."

The LDP's Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Saturday that the NPC would only be accepted into the "grand alliance" if it cuts its ties with the administration.

Rufino said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. would meet with the NPC's Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco upon his arrival this week to assess the situation and attempt to save the alliance.

He said some party members frowned on Vice President Teofisto Guingona's statement that Lakas would top any offer of other parties for the NPC to dissolve its partnership with the ruling party.

"We will ask him what he meant by that because he might know something we don't, but it doesn't sound good because it's like a bidding war," Rufino said.

Lakas will hold a national directorate meeting on Oct. 7 during which party members are expected to endorse President Macapagal-Arroyo as standard-bearer for the May elections.

"I hope that will change her mind about not running," said Rufino, who noted that Lakas was exploring alternative plans if the President decides to stick by her Dec. 30 declaration that she would not run. *Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

NPC leader hurt by Ping slur

From page A1

there), early presidential aspirant Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson is blowing his chances of getting the support of the political party of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

Cojuangco's nephew Rep. Gilberto Teodoro Jr. (NPC, Tarlac) blasted Lacson for urging the NPC to declare whether it was an opposition or administration party.

"Senator Lacson is making it hard for the NPC to support [him]," Teodoro said. "He is taking an extremist position and there is no room in NPC for ultra-partisanship."

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, of which Lacson is a member, announced last week that it was opening negotiations with parties other than the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats for a united opposition that would field a single presidential candidate in the May elections.

Lacson said the NPC must break its ties with the Lakas-CMD before coalescing with the LDP, the largest opposition party. He was reported to have said: *"Yun ang mahirap bakla yung* status *ng* NPC as a political party (That's the problem with the NPC. It's neither here nor there)."

The NPC, the most dominant party after the ruling party, shares an alliance with Lakas, which is co-chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., in the House of Representatives.

Teodoro said the "*sine qua non* for NPC's decision to support a presidential candidate is that this candidate must be able to unite the nation."

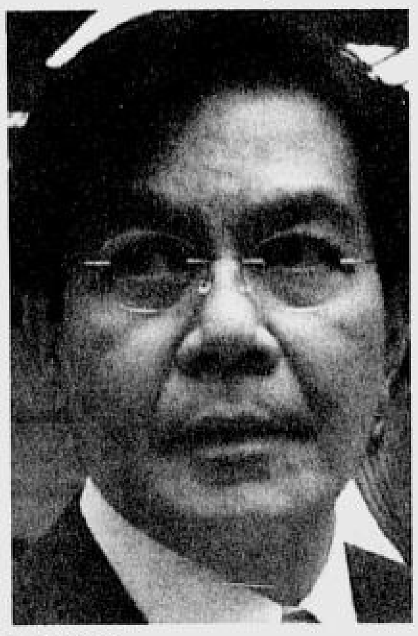
"Now, Senator Lacson is showing his inability to accommodate other views," he said. "It shows his propensity to have it his way or no way at all."

For purposes of the 2004 elections, the NPC is open to a coalition with any party, but it should not be pressured into laying its cards on the table now, according to Teodoro.

"The NPC's position is the statesman's position," he said. "We want a partnership that can ensure the healing of wounds of the nation."

Cojuangco, who ran but lost in the 1992 presidential election, is conducting consultations to feel the people's pulse on his possible presidential candidacy in May.

LDP president Sen. Edgardo Angara, head of a five-member LDP team negotiating with other major political parties like the NPC for a possible alliance, is a known Cojuangco supporter. So are 40 congressmen belonging to Lakas, who are pushing for a Cojuangco presidency.



LACSON

NPC to align with Lakas

Independent Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, who is known for his closeness to Ms Macapagal, said the NPC would align not with LDP but with Lakas.

"Ambassador Cojuangco, in his policy statements enumerated the ills of the country and the kind of leadership needed to fix them," he said.

Villarama predicted that Cojuangco would not support actor Fernando Poe Jr. as speculated on by NPC chair emeritus, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda.

He said Ms Macapagal "would be the likely choice of Cojuangco and FPJ [Poe] if he were to remain consistent with his pronouncements."

"GMA [Ms Macapagal] has the experience, intelligence and track record of competence in economics. In spite of external and internal negative factors, she has managed to keep the country afloat," he said.

Villarama noted that the NPC had "enjoyed a near perfect relationship with Lakas and to break the coalition will not give it the assurance of victory in the polls with any new partners."

"Cojuangco is a world-class businessman and a patriotic Filipino who will not allow an inexperienced Filipino to run the country if he can help it," he said. "Businessmen will be the first to suffer because of bad governance."

LDP-NPC alliance

Saying he was "positive" that the LDP and the NPC would forge an alliance for the May elections, Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said the mere act of the NPC's coalescing with LDP would "automatically dissolve the coalition it has with the administration."

Sotto said the pessimism of some members springs from their preference for Lacson to be the LDP standard-bearer.

"They are confining themselves to one candidate when there are many choices within and outside the party," the senator said in a phone interview. He said he, for instance, could offer himself as a presidential candidate for the party.

Sotto also asked party mates to be "patient" as the LDP along with other political parties was working to "form a formidable opposition" come May.

But some members of the party are not about to be patient.

Ping or nothing

LDP leaders in Pangasinan, La Union and Ilocos Sur on Saturday endorsed Lacson's bid to become the standard-bearer of the united opposition.

"Only Senator Lacson can liberate the people of Ilocos Sur from the dictatorship of (former Gov. Luis) 'Chavit' Singson and the corrupt Macapagal-Arroyo government," said Efren Rafanan, LDP chair for Ilocos Sur and outspoken political foe of Singson.

Rafanan was speaking to mayors, vice mayors, barangay chairs and councilors in the Ilocos region during the LDP consultative meeting held at the Oasis Country Resort in San Fernando City, La Union, on Saturday.

Rafanan's wife, son, brother and driver were killed when armed men ambushed them on March 31 this year. He has insisted that Singson was behind the incident. Singson, however, denied that he was involved in the attack.

"We have no other candidate, only Senator Lacson ... because he is the only presidential candidate who possesses the qualities of a leader we are looking for," said Rafanan, who earlier declared that he would run against Singson in the gubernatorial race in Ilocos Sur next year.

Thomas "Butch" Dumpit Jr., La Union LDP chair, said party members in his province "are for Ping or nothing."

He added that they did not favor the entry of a "non-member" to the party as standard-bearer, particularly if that person is allied with the administration.

But a month earlier, more than 5,000 La Union officials led by Gov. Victor Ortega showed up at the Ortega Sports Center to show their support for the presidential bid of Cojuangco. *With a report from Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Surfers defy travel warnings

From page A1

the surfing competition boosted the government's information campaign that the peace and order problem was confined only to certain areas and has not affected the whole of Mindanao.

But security officials said that even with the peaceful atmosphere, they were not letting their guard down and that antiterrorist measures were in place.

For nearly a decade since the competition began in the Pacific seaside town of General Luna, foreign arrivals have helped save the local tourism industry.

Organizers said the local and foreign participants had considered General Luna's gigantic waves among the top surfing spots in the world. *Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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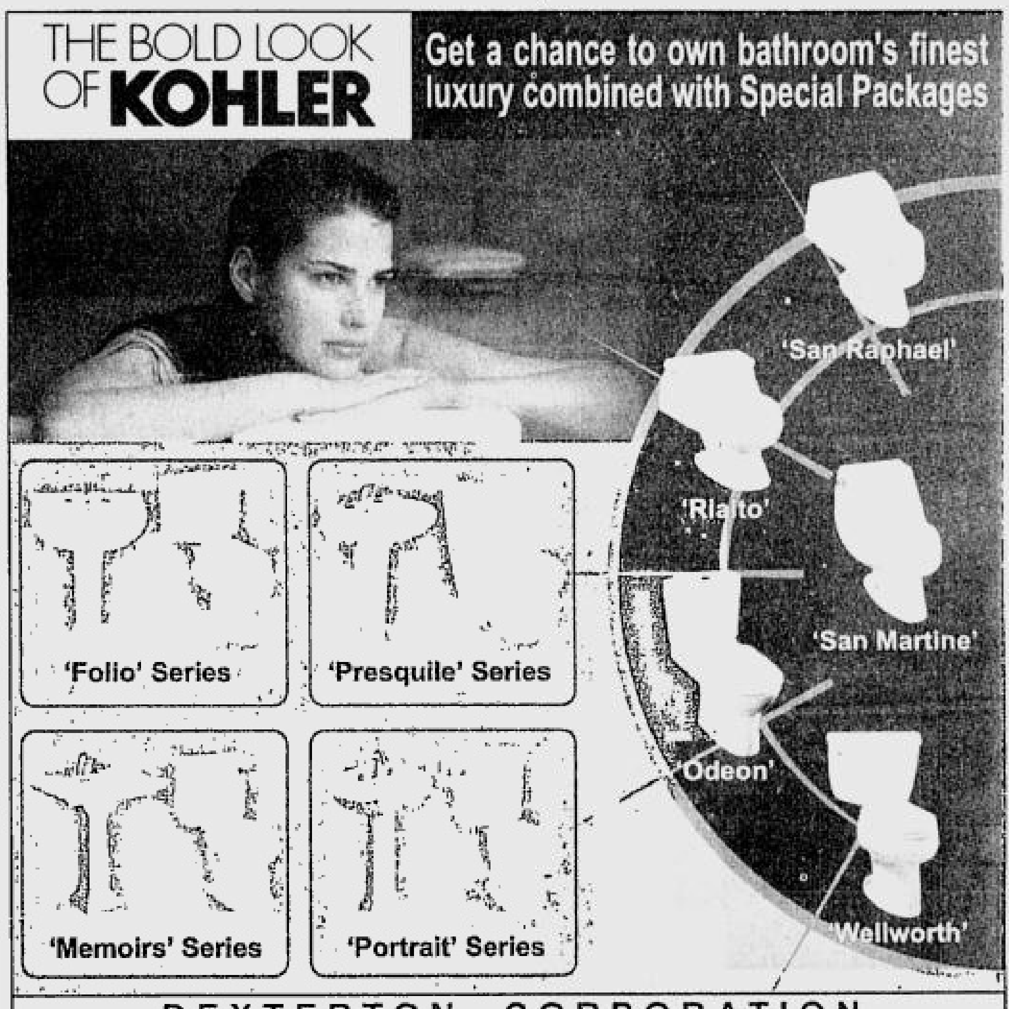

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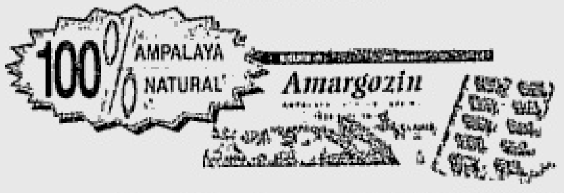

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Wayward truck kills 7 in QC

By Tina Santos

A DUMP truck yesterday left a trail of dead bodies and smashed cars after it lost its breaks on Litex Road in Quezon City.

At least seven people were killed while ten others were seriously injured in the bloody accident, police said.

At press time, only four of the seven fatalities, have been identified. They were Noel Tizon, 30, Jenny Gonzalvo, 30, Bella Pandang, 30, and Sylvia Acelin.

Among those injured were Gonzalvo's year-old son Arick, Judith Boncale, 23, Cristina Subito, 10, Joselito Tobias and Cris Ramirez.

According to traffic investigators, Rodrigo Javiera was driving the dump truck (TTU 141) on Litex Road in Barangay Commonwealth when it suddenly lost its brakes at around 11:30 a.m.

P01 Edgar Labordo of the Central Police District Station 6 said the truck, which belonged to the Quezon City government, hit a number of vehicles—two Isuzu Elf vans, three cars and another dump truck—before it hit the tricycle of Ramirez.

One of the five tricycle passengers, Pandang, was killed on the spot, police said.

The wayward vehicle then hit another tricycle driven by Tizon, before it fell off the Waterhole Bridge on the boundary of Payatas and Commonwealth.

The truck landed on the house of the Gonzalvo family, PO1 Labordo said.

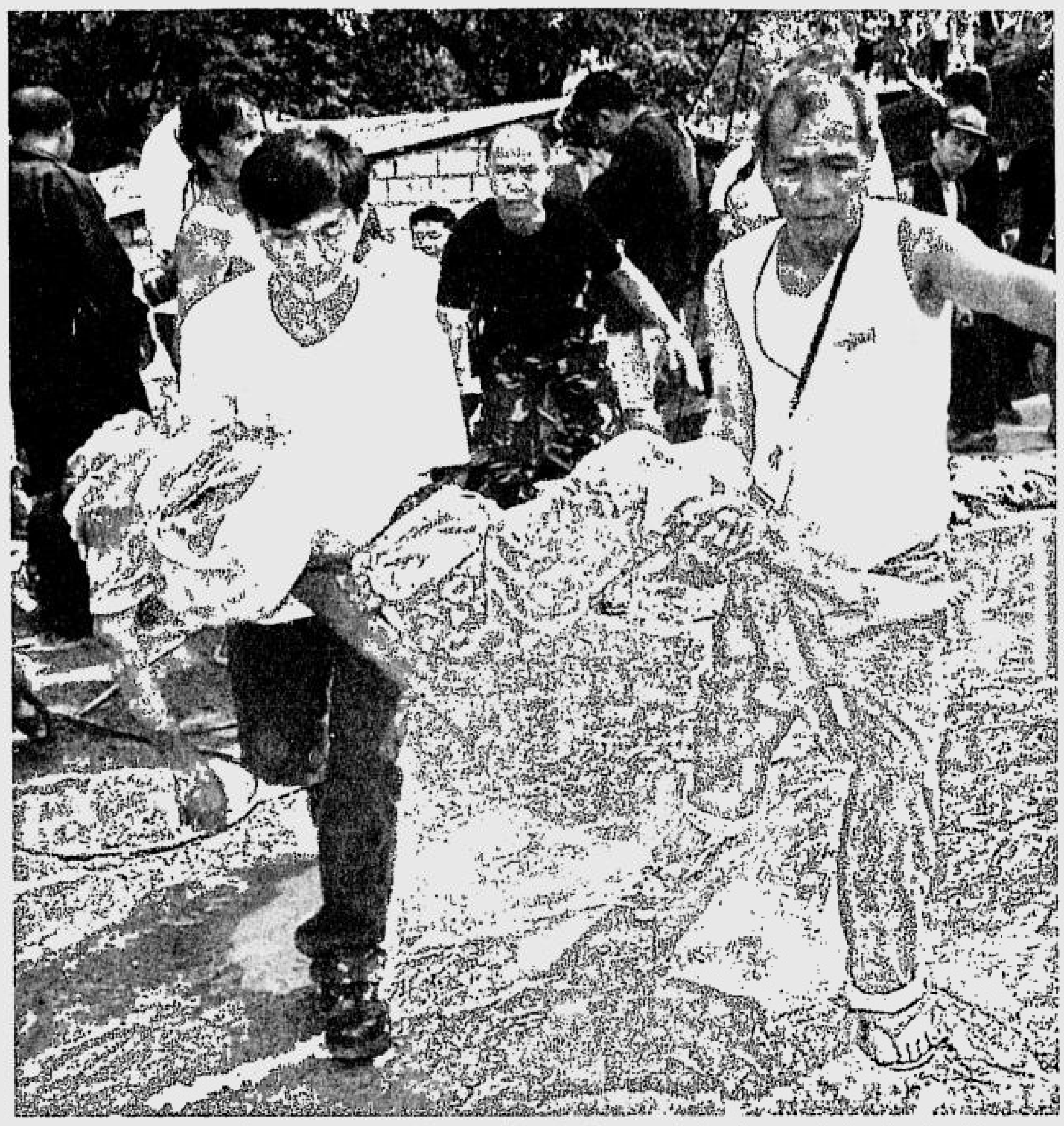
As of 3 p.m. yesterday, rescue teams were still trying to extricate some of the victims who were pinned under the smashed vehicles.

The driver, Javiera, 48, survived the accident.

A police officer on the scene said the driver, who only suffered cuts and bruises, did not come out of the truck until the lawmen arrived because he was afraid of being mauled by the residents.

Javiera will be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and serious physical injuries, the police said.

With a report from AP



COMMONWEALTH residents rescue one of the casualties of a dump truck that has smashed and maimed its way along Litex Road before falling off a bridge near Payatas.

RUDY ESPERAS

DOJ clears $1.4-B Metro rail project

By Gerald Lacuarta

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has cleared the Metro Rail Transit-7 project of legal impediments after it determined that the proposed concession agreement covering the project does not contain any violation of the Build-Operate-Transfer Law, with respect to government guarantee or subsidy.

Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong, in a legal opinion issued on Sept. 17, said the provisions on the payment of capacity fee and government undertaking of the proposed Draft Concession Agreement of the MRT-7 are not considered government guarantee or subsidy prohibited under the BOT law.

Datumanong issued the opinion upon the request of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who wanted to clarify provisions of the proposed agreement with respect to a possible government subsidy.

The BOT law prohibits direct government guarantee, subsidy or equity for unsolicited proposals that may be accepted by the government.

The MRT-7 project was an unsolicited proposal from the Universal LRT Corporation Limited, and Alstom of France—the same group behind the LRT-1 on Rizal and Taft avenues, and MRT-3 on Edsa.

The 20.9-km MRT-7 is the biggest single investment of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration at US$1.4 billion.

The line will run from Tala to North Avenue corner Edsa and is expected to serve an estimated 2 million commuters from Marilao, Bulacan to North Avenue.

MMDA gets wet in latest foray

By Margaux Ortiz

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority has turned its attention from congested streets to clogged waterways as it embarked on another clearing operation.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said that they have given themselves eight months to clear the rivers and streams of garbage.

Fernando also appealed for the cooperation of Metro Manila residents to make the MMDA project work.

"With the indiscriminate throwing of garbage, cleaner rivers and creeks may just be a far-off dream," Fernando said.

He called on Metro Manila residents to start treating the bodies of water around them like "swimming pools."

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said that they annually retrieve around 21,000 metric tons of garbage from Metro Manila's waterways alone.

Lacuna said that this is equivalent to mounds of garbage as high as the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Fernando emphasized that the key to flood-control efforts in the metropolis, particularly during the rainy season, lies in discipline, with regards to garbage disposal.

"We actually have enough pumping stations to keep Metro Manila dry, but garbage keeps us from achieving this," Fernando stressed.

He said that Metro Manila has 13 big pumping stations and 8 smaller stations.

He added that one pumping station is worth P300 million, and is unarguably one of the most expensive installations in the country.

Dennis Chavez, head engineer of the Paco pumping station, explained that floodwaters flow to drainage pipes and mains, then to the *esteros* or canals.

Chavez added that from the canals, the excess waters then go to the pumping stations where they are drained into the Pasig River or the sea.

But the engineer said that the garbage blocking the water pipes greatly impede this process.

Chavez added that the houses of squatters built on creeks also prevent the floodwaters from flowing freely to the pumping stations.

Fernando said that one way to solve the garbage problem would be to open the pumping stations to the public to heighten awareness.

"If the people see what these pumping stations are for, then they will think twice about throwing their trash anywhere," Fernando said.

The MMDA chair added that he is planning to build playgrounds and parks around the stations to arouse environmental awareness in children at an early age.

WPD reins in lawmen eager to grab credit for drug busts

By Leila Salaverria

THE WESTERN Police District is reining in policemen eager to grab credit in the flurry of drug-related operations undertaken by various government agencies.

In a Sept. 25 memo, Western Police District Station 5 commander Supt. Araceli Hofileña cited another memo from the District Operations and Planning Division expressing concern over the series of drug raids and buy-bust operations conducted by policemen without proper authority from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) or the Anti-Illegal Drug Special Task Force (AID-SOTF).

Hofileña said that lawmen who do not belong to drug units tend to botch or jeopardize legitimate anti-illegal drug operations, often resulting in the release of suspects on technicalities.

She reminded WPD personnel that only PDEA and the AID-SOTF personnel are allowed to conduct anti-illegal drug operations.

Should personnel from other units join or conduct drug operations, their participation should be justified.

"Further, ensure that all reports (spot, investigation, special reports, etc.) on anti-illegal drug operations must contain the elements of a crime and justification of the involvement of other units or personnel who are not authorized by law in the antidrug operations," Hofileña said.

The government scored its latest victories against drug offenders when operatives raided two Manila warehouses, seizing various chemicals and equipment used in the manufacture of shabu.

The warehouse in Tondo yielded 1,560 cans of thionyl hyrochloride which, when mixed with ephedrine, could produce 1,000 kilograms of shabu.

The second warehouse in Paco contained eight tons of various chemicals and equipment also used to manufacture shabu.

Water cutoff in Malabon, Caloocan

PARTS of Malabon City and Caloocan City will have no water for 4 hours starting 11 p.m. Wednesday, until 3 a.m. the following day.

Maynilad Water said the water service interruption will make way for the dewatering of a 600-mm mainline at Samson Road corner Torres Bugallon Street, Caloocan, in preparation for the insertion of a 300-mm gate valve.

The following areas in Caloocan City will have no water: 7th Ave., 8th Ave., 9th Ave., 10th Ave., 11th Ave., 12th Ave., the entire West Grace Park area, Heroes del '96, UE Subdivision, Samson Road, Julian Felipe, and A. Mabini Street (from 10th Ave. to Samson Road).

In Malabon, the areas of Tanong, Agustin, Longso, Tonsuya, Paradise Village and Dagat-Dagatan will experience water service interruption. Barangay Ibaba will have low water pressure.

Affected customers are advised to store water for the duration of the water service interruption. They may also call Maynilad hotline 1626 for the water rationing schedule.

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Lead us not to temptation, cops tell girlie bar owners

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

STOP tempting policemen by offering freebies. Instead, nightclub owners should report policemen who would violate President Macapagal-Arroyo's order prohibiting lawmen from frequenting girlie bars, the National Capital Region Police Office on Saturday said.

The NCRPO made the appeal to club owners amid reports that some policemen are still frequenting nightclubs despite the ban.

A source from the NCRPO said club owners in the cities of Caloocan and Valenzuela have admitted that some policemen still visit their bars.

Some even introduce themselves as policemen to club owners to get discounts, if they don't get to stay at the bar for free.

But Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco expressed surprise over the NCRPO statement.

Franco told the INQUIRER on Saturday that the NPD already had teams making the rounds of the nightclubs in the district every night.

Because of the reports, NCRPO Director Reynaldo Velasco has ordered all district directors and station commanders to step up their nightly inspections of nightspots in their respective areas.

The public—especially wives of policemen—have expressed approval over the move to bar lawmen from going to nightspots.

But some policemen condemned the move, saying they have the right to "enjoy" after work.

Club owners also protested the nightlife checks, which they said could badly affect their business.

Hardware owner is latest kidnap victim

By Tina Santos

TWO DAYS after kidnappers snatched a 12-year-old boy in Parañaque, at least five armed men abducted a 29-year-old Filipino-Chinese businessman in Caloocan City.

Northern Police District Office (NPDO) Director Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco identified the victim as the owner of Gold Ever Hardware in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City.

Franco, however, refused to name the victim.

According to reports reaching the NPDO chief, the hardware owner was on board a scooter while cruising inside Morning Breeze subdivision when the suspects struck at 7:50 a.m.

Sketchy reports said that he just came from a nearby church while another said he was on his way to his store.

Suddenly, a blue Isuzu Hilander (XTP 124), blocked his path.

Five men armed with handguns jumped out and reportedly shoved the victim into the van at gunpoint.

Franco said they had yet to determine the motive behind the abduction.

The victim's family had been reluctant to cooperate with the NPDO and the Caloocan City police, the district director revealed.

Consequently, Franco said they sought the help of the Camp Crame based Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response in investigating and solving the case.

Last week, the Philippine National Police and business leaders met to discuss the rise in kidnapping cases in the country.

Later, Malacañang played down the latest rash of abductions as the work of "small-time fly-by-night" operators.

Pacer says abductions lower this year

By TJ Burgonio

DESPITE the recent spate of kidnappings, the Philippine National Police has said that the cases in 2003 are less worrisome than in previous years.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, deputy police chief for administration, said that there had so far been 53 kidnapping cases in the country.

The figure is three cases less than that for the same period last year and 23 cases better than 2001 incidents.

Aglipay's figure, however, does not include the reported abduction yesterday of a hardware owner in Caloocan City.

If confirmed, the latest case would bring to 54 the abduction cases this year.

Despite the upsurge in kidnappings, the PNP said it had no idea whether politics was behind the rash of crime.

"That's being assessed right now," said Aglipay after briefing Vice President Teofisto Guingona on their campaign to root out kidnapping and other high-profile crimes.

Director Ricardo de Leon, acting chief of The Directorial Staff, added that the police investigators have yet to establish the factors behind the fresh upsurge of kidnappings, particularly in Metro Manila.

In view of this, PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane assured Guingona that the police would try to stop the number of incidents from further rising in the next three months, Aglipay said.

"Our chief PNP said that this problem will be solved in three months. When we say solved, the occurrences will not be as much as the occurrences that happened in the last few weeks," he said.

Guingona went to Camp Aguinaldo and then to Camp Crame for a briefing on the security, and law and order situation in the country.

According to De Leon, while there's a perceived rise in abductions, the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response has solved 65 percent of these incidents.

On the reported conflicting figures of the police and anticrime watchdogs on the number of KFR incidents, De Leon said this was an offshoot of the failure of the victim's families to report the incident to the Pacer.

"We don't want to quarrel with business groups as to the number of incidents as far as KFR is concerned. There were incidents that were not reported to the Pacer," he said.

De Leon then stressed the need for the public to always report kidnapping incidents. "We have to identify these syndicates and run after them."

Antipolo landslide kills boy, injures 2

HEAVY rain during a thunderstorm set off a landslide yesterday in Antipolo City, where a shanty was buried, killing an 8-year-old boy and injuring his two siblings.

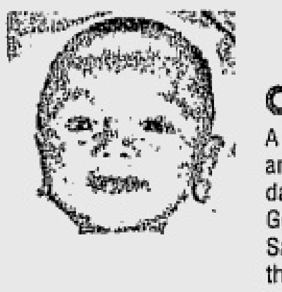
Rescuers dug up the body of the child from the heap of mud and rocks that covered their house in Barangay San Luis.

His younger sister and brother were found alive by people who quickly responded after seeing the wall of earth tumble on the shanty.

The Associated Press reported that the three children were alone in the house at the time of the incident.

They were left to the care of their grandfather who was staying in a nearby hut.

Antipolo has been the site of many landslides in the past, the worst of which was the Cherry Hills disaster where rows of houses collapsed as the ground these were on caved in.



SHANE BRAD

A hole only you can fill

SHANE Brad Baltazar was born on June 18, 2003, to the joy of his mother, Gian, 23, who then became a single mother.

But Shane has a problem. He was lately diagnosed with mesocardia, a complex congenital heart condition where his heart is in the middle of the chest.

Gian quoted 3 doctors as mentioning "mesocardia, transposition of great arteries, left part of the heart enlarged..."

Also, she added, "There is a hole in the middle part of his heart."

Gian, who works as a customer service agent for a local telecommunications company, is now appealing for help.

"I'm a single mother with no means of supporting my son's surgery which costs P500,000 and P70,000 for the cardiac catherization," she said.

She added, "Please, please help my son. I'm in distress right now, but I'm staying strong for Shane Brad."

Her email address is makenzi_girl@yahoo.com or quickkfox@yahoo.com and her mobile number is 0918-5544413.

METROBRIEFS

Cabbie loses cash

A TAXI driver lost his day's earnings and his cab to two robbers before dawn yesterday in Manila. Roberto Godoca, 35, of 146 Halcon Street, Sampaloc, Manila, told the police that two men boarded his taxi in Sta. Cruz, Manila, at 1:45 a.m. As they drove through Andalucia Street in Sta. Cruz, the suspects, one of whom was armed with a handgun, declared a robbery. They then took Godoca's wristwatch worth P2,000, a black leather clutch bag and earnings worth P1,400. The suspects then told the cabbie to get off at the corner of Fugoso Street before driving away. *Tarra Quismundo*

Street death

THE BODY of Edgar Manansala, 28, who was from Pangasinan, was discovered by a fellow vendor along Carmen Planas Street, near C.M. Recto Avenue at about 3 p.m. yesterday. Manansala was already stiff when found by Marlon Bindiola. The police said Manansala had been sick with tuberculosis. *Tarra Quismundo*

NPD maps banks

THE NORTHERN Police District has drawn a map of all banks in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela and in Navotas amid the series of bank robberies in Metro Manila. With the map, the police are optimistic they will be able to better monitor the security around the banks and thwart future robberies. NPD Director Marcelino Franco told the INQUIRER that drawing a map locating the banks within the district's area of jurisdiction would organize police patrolling and response in case of robbery incidents. The district has also come up with a listing of all the banks, dividing them according to the nearest police station. This came after the National Capital Region Police Office formed an Anti-Bank Robbery Task Force, following a letter of instruction from the Philippine National Police on Sept. 15. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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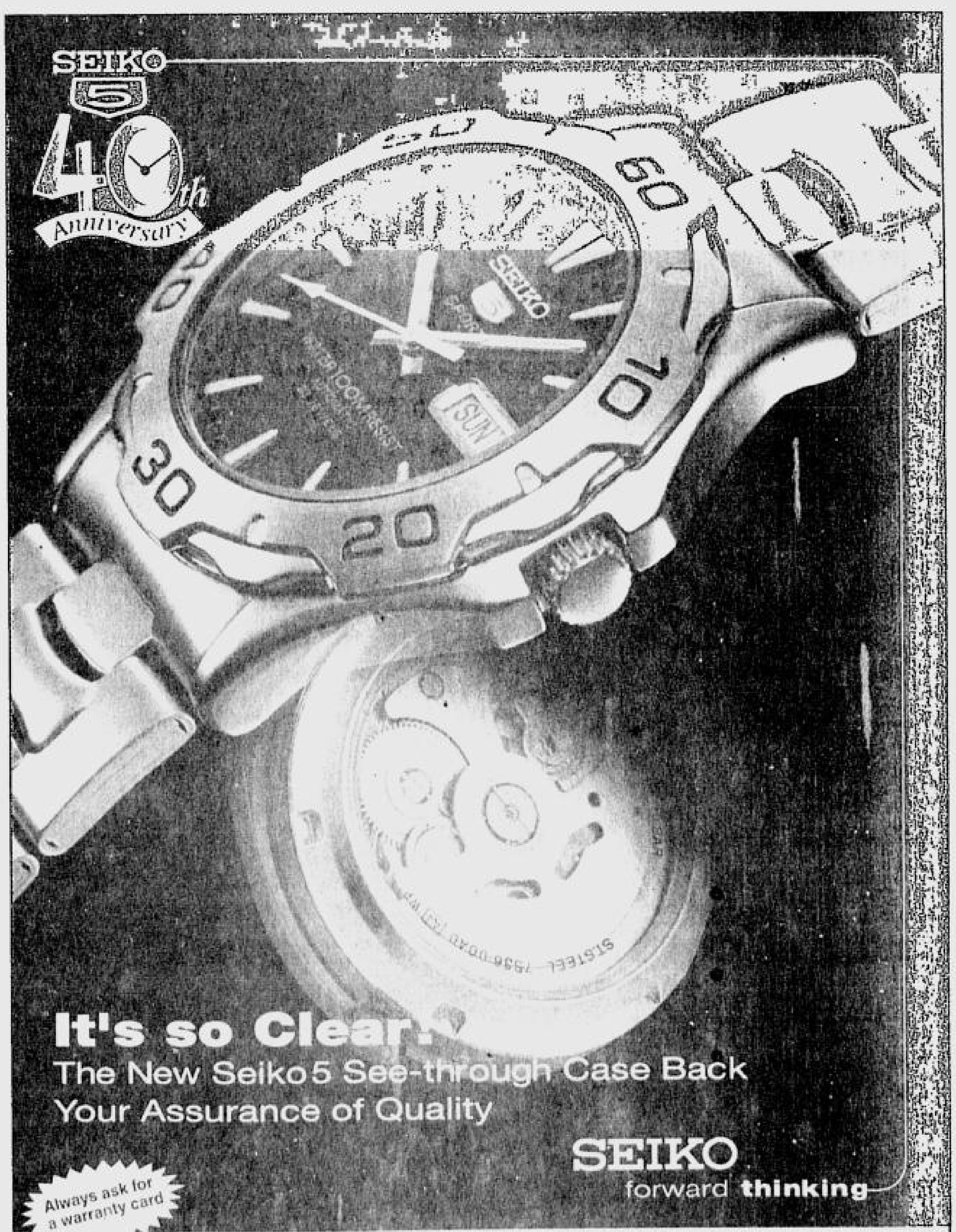
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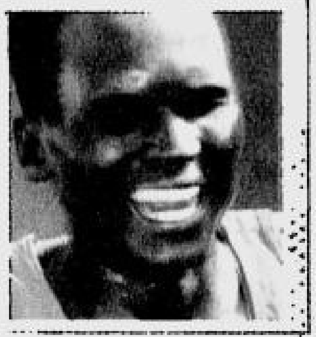
Tergat shatters world record /A31

Last-minute Ateneo plea turned down

ATENEO coach Joel Banal AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

By Dennis U. Eroa

NOW, it's back to the playing court.

In an emergency meeting, the UAAP board yesterday rejected the appeal of defending champion Ateneo for a replay of its 76-72 overtime setback to bitter rival La Salle in the Final Four last Thursday before an overflow crowd at the Araneta Coliseum.

The decision thus paved the way for the all-important clash between the country's most popular collegiate ball club tomorrow at the same venue with the winner advancing to a best-of-three championship showdown against early finalist Far Eastern.

It also confirmed the earlier decision of the board to suspend Ateneo guard Lewis Tenorio for one game, and a similar ban on Eagle Badjie del Rosario and La Salle's Ryan Araña for their involvement in a bench-clearing incident which transpired with 1:31 left.

Former UAAP president and board representative Sonny Paguia of NU chaired the emergency meet-

LAST-MINUTE/ A26

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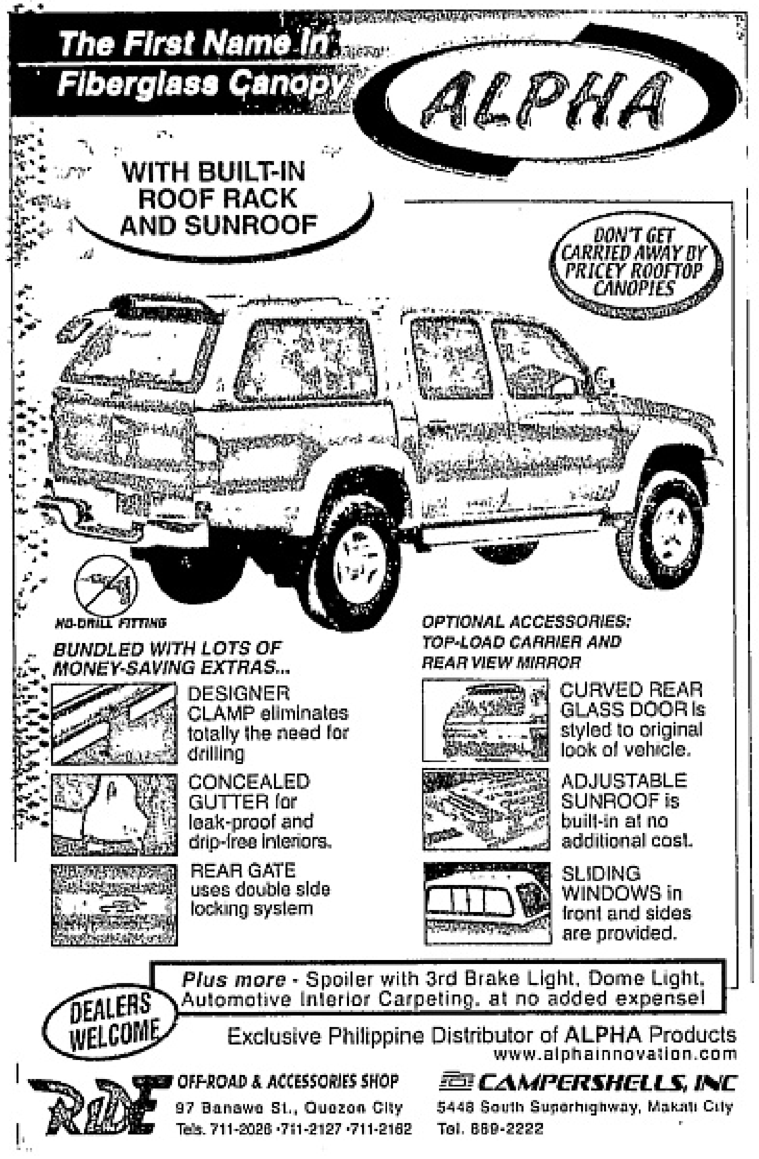
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Last-minute Ateneo plea turned down

From page A25

ing in place of Ateneo board member and UAAP president Jose Capistrano Jr., who inhibited himself during the four-hour deliberation at the Club Filipino in Greenhills.

The board cited a categorical agreement between the two teams' coaches as reason for the denial of Ateneo's appeal.

The board also did not accept the resignation of Commissioner Joe Lipa, who offered to quit and give the board a free hand in handling the thorny issue.

Ateneo, through team manager Simon Mossesgeld, formally appealed to the UAAP board Saturday afternoon that the game be replayed at the 1:31 mark—or after play was halted by the melee—with the Eagles ahead 65-63 and the sanctions imposed on erring players on both benches.

The Ateneo appeal was based on Article 52 of the FIBA (International Basketball Federation) rules on Fighting, which basically states that a fight-marred game has to be resumed after penalties have been imposed on players involved in the melee.

But Paguia said that Ateneo's Joel Banal and La Salle's Franz Pumaren had "categorically agreed to resume the game, thus waiving the applicability of the FIBA rules."

"Both coaches categorically replied to a question by the commissioner's office if they wanted to resume the game that they wanted to continue the game to its conclusion, thus the game was resumed.

"On this basis the categorical agreement by both coaches is waived on the part of both teams, thus rendering the applicability of the FIBA rules as moot and academic," the board said.

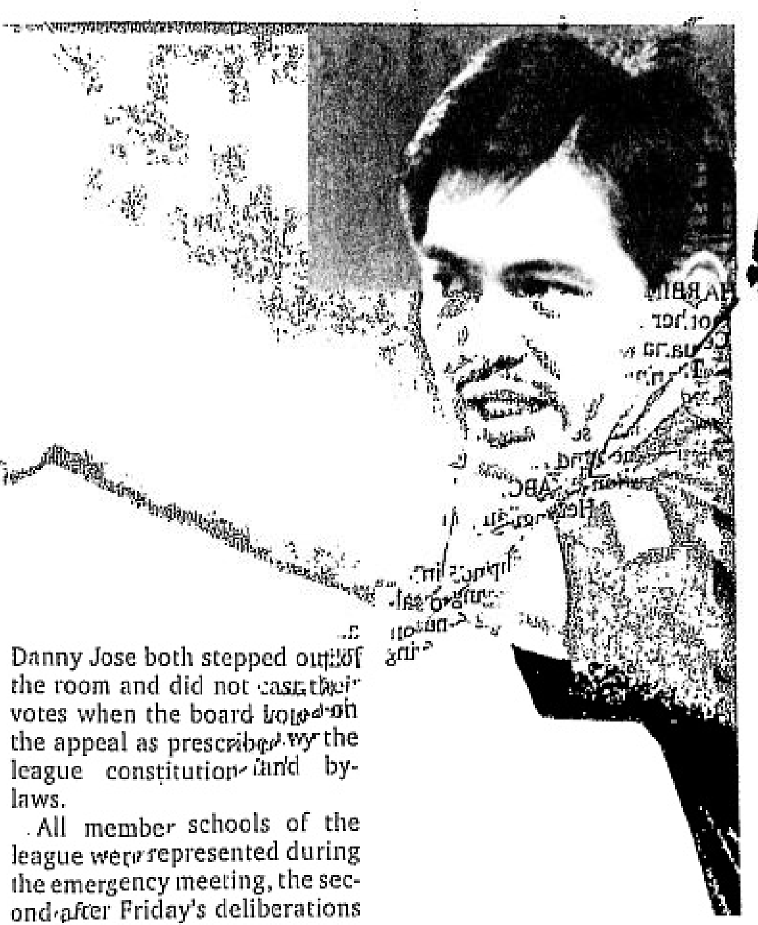
The UAAP board said it would impose appropriate sanctions on the referees but denied further reprimanding Gaco. The fact that Gaco was slapped a technical foul for his reaction, the UAAP board said, was enough penalty for his deed.

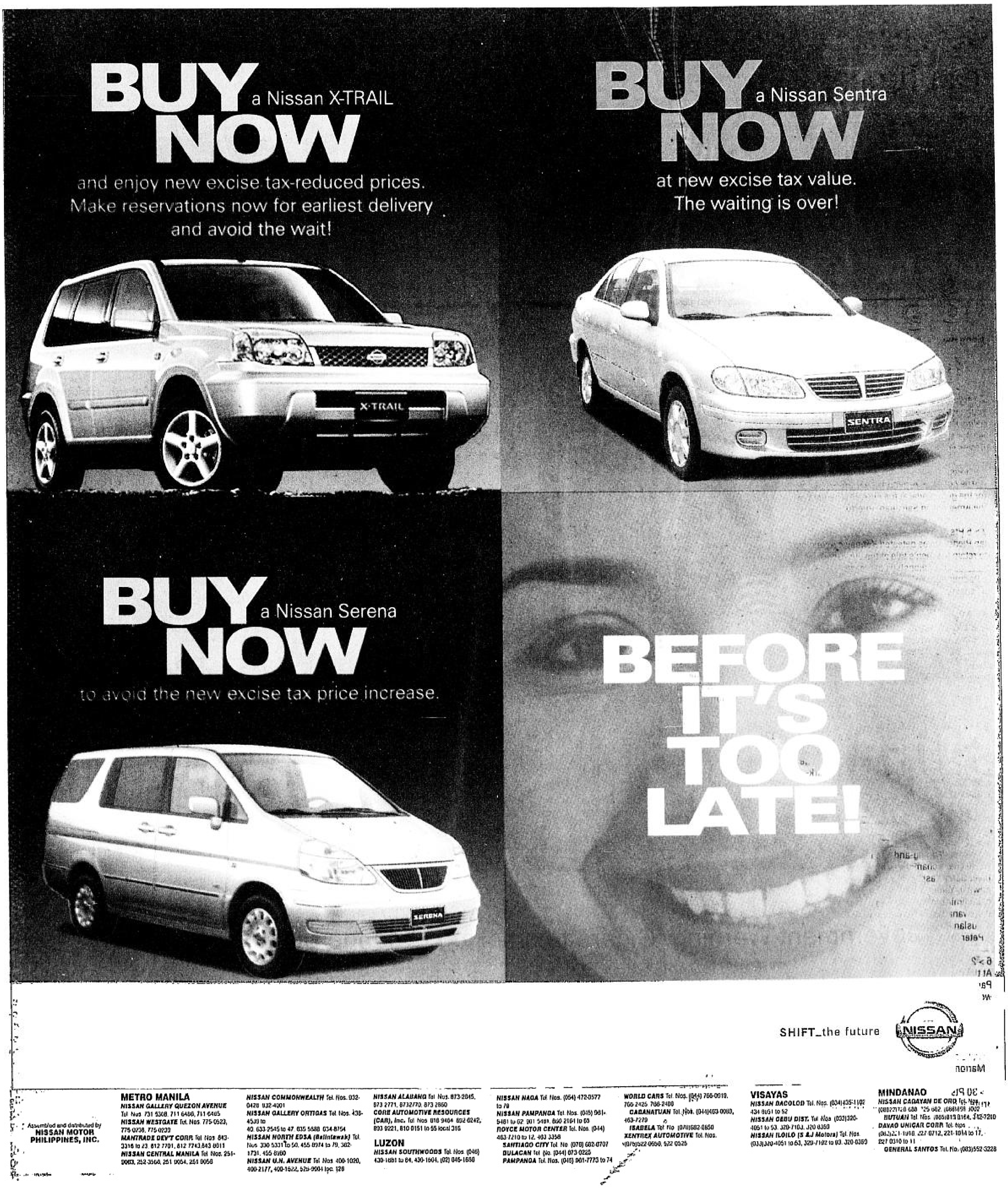
Tenorio ignited the melee with a punch to the body of Gaco that the referees failed to see. Gaco reacted by bumping Tenorio hard, sending the Atenean down to the floor sliding backward.

Capistrano and La Salle's Danny Jose both stepped out of the room and did not cast their votes when the board voted on the appeal as prescribed by the league constitution and by-laws.

All member schools of the league were represented during the emergency meeting, the second after Friday's deliberations that resulted in the suspension of Tenorio, del Rosario, Araña and a member of the coaching staff from the rival teams.

Game One of the championship is set this Thursday while Game Two will be played Oct. 5. If necessary, Game Three will be played Oct. 11.


LA SALLE coach Franz Pumaren
ROMY HOMILLADA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Syria dooms RP five to 15th

HARBIN, China—Another game, another loss for the Philippines-Cebuana Lhuillier team.

This time, the Filipino cagers suffered a 95-77 defeat to Syria at the end of their second round campaign in the 22nd Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship at the Heilongjian gymnasium here Sunday.

The loss put the Filipinos in an unenviable position of trying to salvage 15th place in the 16-nation tournament serving as qualifying event for the Olympics in Athens, Greece, next year.

The Filipinos will meet the last placer in Group III (either Uzbekistan or Malaysia) in the battle for 15th place on Tuesday.

The Cebuana Lhuillier-backed Filipinos actually held their own against the taller Syrians in the first two quarters and trailed by only five, 42-47, at halftime.

But the Syrians, who finished fourth in the previous staging of the event in Shanghai in 2001, began asserting themselves in the third period where they outshot the Filipinos, 31-12, to pull away, 78-54.

The Filipinos tried to stage a rally in the final period, but the Syrians wisely kept them at bay.

Mohamad Abo Sada topscored for Syria with 28 points, hitting 4-of-7 three-pointers.

Chris Dennis Madrid carried the fight for the Filipinos with 19 points, including three of the team's seven three-pointers.

With their tremendous height advantage, the Syrians routed the Filipinos off the boards, 44-26.

Regardless of the outcome of their final game, the Filipinos, five-time winners of the event, will end up with their worst record in the 43-year history of the ABC.

Their previous worst finish was 12th place in Seoul in 1995.

Scores:

SYRIA 95—Mohamad Abo Sada 28, Mohamed Alamam 24, Madanil 18, Alhakam 8, Kedwan 6, Mahdsharif 4, Rober 3, Abdulhamid 1, Qade 0, Shaban 0.

RP-CEBUANA LHUILLIER 77—Madrid 19, Franco 12, Melencio 9, Oreta 9, Pingris 7, Cruz 7, Calimag 4, Omolon 4, De Guzman 4, Wilson 2.

Quarters: 23-27, 47-42, 78-54, 95-77.

Dela Paz, Legaspi lead Jungolf winners

JUNIOR World veterans Bino dela Paz and Andrea Legaspi stamped their class in Class D, posting runaway victories in the September tournament of the Samsung Jungolf Tour at the Canlubang and Royal Northwoods courses recently.

Dela Paz won over JP de Claro and JR Gonzales in the boys division while Legaspi beat Korean rival Sun Mi Hwang in the 36-hole event organized by the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

Gio dela Paz topped Class A over James Hong while Bambee dela Paz placed second behind Vruno Villanueva in the Class B category.

In Class C, Korean Sung Bin Yoon edged Ernest Platon for the title.

Cyna Marie Rodriguez roared to an easy win over Beverly Mendoza in the girls side.

In Class E, Janella and Jason Buen posted big victories. Jason won the boys Class E over Juan Carlos Pucay while Janella took the 6-under girls crown at the expense of Justin Dy. Dana Gonzales bagged the regular 7-8 years Class E division for girls.

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In the news

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
o True / o False: Argentina beat United States for the gold medal at the FIBA Tournament of the Americas in San Juan, Puerto.

2 > 5 Pts.
Ian Piencenaves defeated Kennevic Asuncion to retain his men's title at the JVC Open ______ Championships in Makati.
o Badminton
o Fencing

3 > 7 Pts.
At the World University Games in Daegu, South Korea, which country easily claimed the overall title with 81 medals, 41 of them gold?
o United States
o China
o Russia

4 > 10 Pts.
The Little League girls' team of which city got a P1-million bonus from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for winning the 13-14 age division of the Softball World Series in Kirkland, Washington?
o Bacolod City
o Pasig City
o Zamboanga City

5 > 20 Pts.
Name the reigning-and youngest ever--FIDE world chess champion who was supposed to meet Garry Kasparov in a 12-match showdown in Yalta, Ukraine.
o Vladimir Kramnik (Russia)
o Viswanathan Anand (India)
o Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine)
o Peter Leko (Hungary)

6 > 25 Pts.
At the World Athletics Championships in Paris, France, which American swept the women's 100- and 200-meter sprints - but later tested positive for a controversial stimulant?
o Kelli White
o Corbillon Cup
o Gail Devers
o Marion Jones

7 > 30 Pts.
Brute and the Beast: Plans are afoot for a martial arts bout in Tokyo between Iron Mike Tyson and a former American football player who's currently one of the top K-1 stars in Japan. Who's this 'Beast'?

ANSWERS/ A31

W'Wack ladies sparkle

WACK Wack picked up a win and two runner-up finishes in the penultimate leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit it hosted recently to bolster its bid for a ticket to the season-ending WGAP Cup.

Wack Wack ruled Class B and also placed second in Class A and Class C to jump from fifth to third in the overall rankings with 17 points.

Alabang and Sta. Elena, which won Class C and placed second in Class B and third in Class A, have virtually clinched the first two seats with their totals of 32 and 20 points, respectively.

Alabang only had a third place finish in Class C to show, but with its 12-point lead over Sta. Elena going into the last leg on Oct. 20, it will have the luxury of not showing up but still finishing first.

Southwoods turned the race for the last berth very interesting when it won Class A and moved within striking distance at 12 points.

Bernadette Abiera (39), Lora Roberto (37), Carmelette Villaroman (36), Pam Methanayononda (34) totalled 146 to give Southwoods a three-point win over Wack Wack, which was led by individual champ Cheryl Chan's 45.

Walang tigil na tsibugan sa
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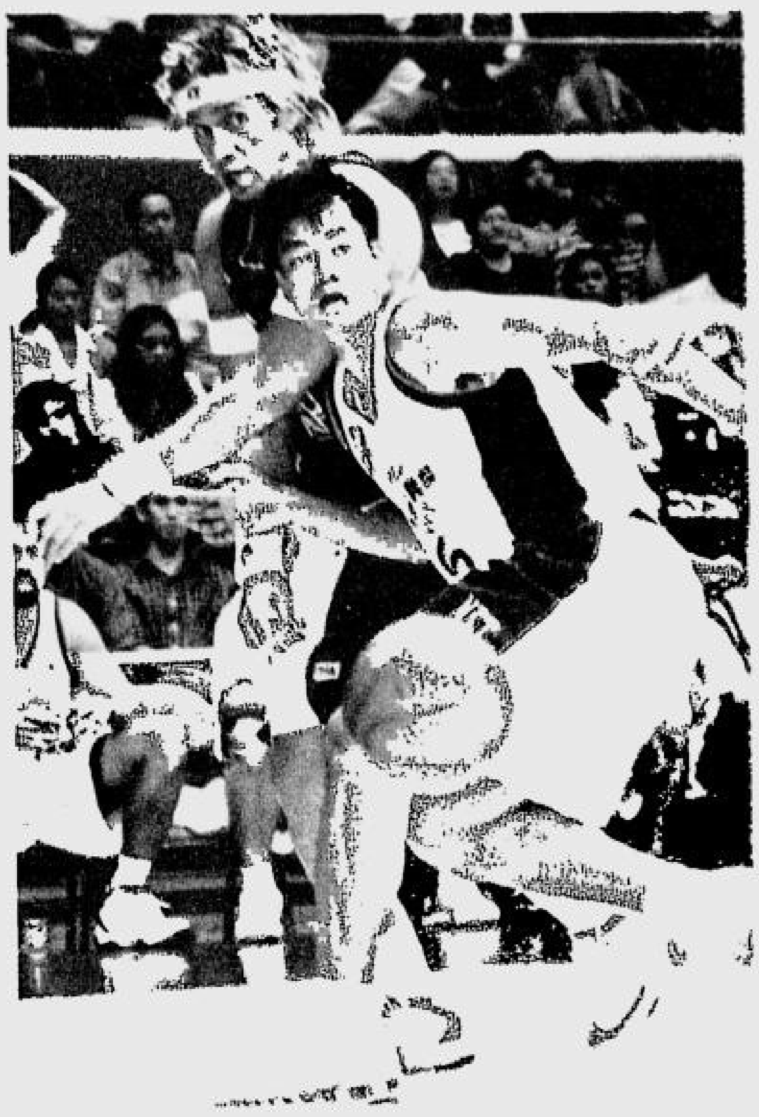
OKTOBERFEST
TODO BUHOS ANG SAYA!
Drink Moderately



ASI Taulava of Talk 'N Text slips a pass past Dennis Espino of Sta. Lucia in last night's game won by the Phone Pals. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Phone Pals extend win streak to 6

TALK 'N Text stretched its winning streak to six with an 89-81 decision over Sta. Lucia Realty last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

With Sta. Lucia import Nate James sidelined in the last quarter due to sore achilles tendon, the Phone Pals finished strong to grab the Group B lead with a 6-1 record.

The win was credited to Ariel Vanguardia who finally took over the coaching chores from Virgil Villavicencio.

"It's great to be back, it's a new life. The pressure's on top of my head in this game because, aside from the fact that it's my first game after that five-game suspension, it's also my birthday tomorrow (Monday).

"I wanted coach Virgil (Villavicencio) to continue coaching because of his win streak. I also believe that if it's not broke, don't fix it. But it's the decision of management and I thank Virgil and the players for this beautiful welcome and birthday gift."

Vanguardia served a five-game suspension as a result of TNT's controversial game against Red Bull in the Invitationals and the Phone Pals worked under American Bill Bayno in their first two games in the conference before Villavicencio took over and led them to four straight wins.

"Virgil was allowed to coach the previous game because of its proximity to his recent win. I could've given in to him but we are following a schedule here," Vanguardia said.

Even if he continues to keep the Phone Pals on top, Vanguardia said coach-on-leave Joel Banal, who is handling the Ateneo Eagles in the UAAP, will return to handle the team on Oct. 15.

Asi Taulava, who promised Vanguardia a win as a gift, scored the crucial baskets in the endgame to finish with 19 behind the 29 points of Damien Cantrell.

Alaska downed FedEx, 95-86, in the second game to move up to second behind Sta. Lucia at 2-4.

FedEx dropped to third at 2-5.

In the Ginebra-Purefoods one-on-one competition, Kerby Raymundo rallied to beat Nic Belasco, 12-10, in the first overtime duel of this event for 6-4 and above division.

Scores:

First Game

TALK 'N TEXT 89—Cantrell 29, Taulava 19, Telan 10, Ravena 9, Alapag 9, Fran 7, Carey 4, Belano 2, Locsin 0, Manalo 0.

STA. LUCIA 81—Aquino 29, Espino 24, Duremdes 14, James 12, Francisco 2, Santos 0, Webb 0, Victolero 0, Ong 0, Tan 0.

Quarters: 25-27, 40-46, 63-67, 89-81.

Second Game

ALASKA 95—Fontaine 22, Allado 18, Peek 15, Cortez 10, Cablay 9, Duat 8, Arigo 6, Feihl 5, Camaso 2, Padilla 0, Noble 0.

FEDEX 86—Shannon 26, Ritualo 17, Meneses 10, Ferriols 8, De Ocampo 7, Villones 6, Arboleda 6, Codinera 4, Yap 2, Rodriguez 0, Bernardo 0, Ejercito 0, Ortiguera 0.

Quarters: 22-12, 48-39, 74-65, 95-86.

So, Causo top Shell youth active chess

WESLEY So and Daniel Causo won their final-round matches last night and topped their respective brackets in the 2003 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship at the SSS Canteen on East Avenue in Quezon City.

So, the country's representative to the World Youth Championships in the boys' under-10 category, needed 50 moves of a Caro-Kann Defense to beat Davao champion Sheider Nebato for the kiddies' division crown.

So aggregated 9.5 points in 11 rounds to pocket the P10,000 champion's purse.

Causo of San Sebastian College disposed of Davao qualifer Boris Michael Diez in the 11th round to rule the juniors' category with 8.5 points.

Causo, who won P20,000 for his effort, and NCR-Northern Luzon finalist Christian Arroyo actually tied for the championship but the former won on a better tiebreak quotient.

Arroyo defeated Southern Luzon-Batangas finalists Chriatopher Manguiat in the final round.

Jay Bulicatin and Karl Victor Ochoa tallied 8.5 points apiece to tie for second spot, a full point behind So.

Bulicatin lost his final-round match to Venancio Loyola, while Ochoa trounced his World Youth Championships teammate Cindy Atayde.

Bulicatin received P7,500, while Ochoa settled for P5,000 after a tiebreaker. *With a report from NM Marlon Bernardino*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SPORTSWATCH

Septo-Maranon advance in beach volley

REGULAR campaigners Game Ann Septo and partner Lou Maranon advanced to the championship round of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball tournament at the La Salle Greenhills courts. Septo and Maranon, the runner-up in the first leg, turned back Katherine Sotejo and Kristea Ricana to set up a clash with the pair of Aileen Ybañez and Gretchen Deposoy in this two-day volleyball extravaganza sponsored by Petron and organized by the Volts Management Group. The Ybañez-Deposoy tandem whipped the pair of Evelyn Reyes and Cherrie Ann Garcia, 21-4. Crowd favorites Isabel Granada and Mary Sol Teves won the first set of their match against St. Francis of Assisi standouts Raymonette Panelo and Joyce Realiza, 21-18, before eventually bowing out of the quarterly tournament. Also advancing to the finals were the pair of Lorelei Villanueva and Irish Binaday, who crushed Luisa Beltran and Rosanna Pacheco, 21-6; the tandem of Angelina Aquino and Ohrina Caniya who trounced Loraine Palomar and Kristine Montemayor, 21-6; and the duo of Roma Jaro and Michelle Pinero who defeated Michelle Querubin and Rosalina Gomez, 21-8.

Beer na Beer cue masters post 3rd win

STANDINGS	W	L
Beer na Beer	2	0
Skyflakes	1	1
Accel	0	1
G'nebra Kapitan	0	1

BEER na Beer claimed the last four racks behind Al Ortega and Marlon Manalo to outsmart Skyflakes, 5-2, yesterday and firm up its bid in the finals of the Corporate Billiards League (CBL) at the Robinsons Galleria. The win gave Beer na Beer solo leadership with a 3-0 card in this event sponsored by Tanduay The No.1 Rhum with the support of Rommel's Billiard. Beer na Beer only needs to win against Accel to to gain the first finals slot. Skyflakes, made up of Venancio Tanyo and Dennis Baay, and Fred Danao, must win against Ginebra Kapitan to stay alive. Both teams played cautiously at the start, until Baay got into the groove and wiped out all the balls in the fourth rack to hand Skyflakes a 2-1 lead. Beer na Beer's Ortega wrapped up the next match to even the count at 2-2 before Ortega made it 4-2 for the victors in the next two racks. The top two teams after the single round-robin semifinals will battle each other in a best-of-seven championship series for the P100,000 top purse.

Olongapo bet stuns second seed

OLONGAPO—Local bet Leyan Moncera upset second seed Joshua Tan Ho, 6-0, 6-2, to advance to the next round of the boys' 14-under division of the 2003 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop at the Olongapo Tennis Club here. Moncera towed Luis Macalino, Juan Fidel Regis, Gerard Ngo, Rodel Navarro, Marvin Serito, Patrick Arevalo and Bobby Chio into the next round of the Milo netfest organized by CTW and supported by Wilson balls, adidas and Sports Kids. Moncera also moved into the next round of the boys' 16-under bracket with a 6-2, 6-2 rout of Ryan Daza. In other matches, Jerry Dorado beat Gerber Mamawal 2-6, 7-6, 6-1, and Arevalo edged Tan Ho 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Tagaytay Casino Filipino hosts PPBL bouts

SOME of the country's professional flyweights motor to Tagaytay City this Saturday for the semifinals of the Philippine Pro-Boxing League. Danilo Peña and Philip Parcon head the cast of the explosive 54-round extravaganza slated at the city's Casino Filipino. The bouts are seen every Thursday at 8:30 p.m. on IBC 13. Peña, whose only loss was inflicted by Jimboy Rodriguez early in his career, pummeled his former tormentor into submission in six rounds. He now boasts a 9-1 win-loss record with 3 KOs. Parcon sent Gerald Ubatay to the canvass halfway through the fifth round for his eighth win in 11 bouts. Peña and Parcon will be matched against the victors of the two remaining quarterfinal matches.

NCA 7-stag derby sizzles today

THE THIRD leg of National Cockers Association's Stagwars 7-Stag Derby series unfolds today at the Araneta Coliseum. The finals is set this Wednesday. Former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet ruled the first leg last Sept. 3 while hotelier Biboy Enriquez was solo champion in the second leg. The derby's co-hosts—Rep. Rudy Albano, Pico Berin and Jun and Rudy Jingco—are again expecting fierce cockfighting action. Also scheduled in the NCA Stagwars are two more derbies, scheduled on Oct. 6 and 8 (hosted by Mayor Nene Aguilar and Gerry Ramos) and Oct. 13 and 15 (hosted by Louie Cua and Tony Tan). For inquiries, call 911-3101 or 911-2928.

10 nations vying in Vigan shootfest

THE STAGE is set for world-caliber action when trap and skeet shooters from 10 countries compete in the Presidential Clay Shooting Championships at the Baluarte Shooting Range in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, 2003. Vice President Teofisto Guingona will be the guest of honor at the opening ceremonies. Presidential Adviser for Northern Luzon and tournament host Luis "Chavit" Singson, former governor of Ilocos Sur, says this is a great opportunity for Vigan, as well as the northern Philippines, to be recognized in the Olympic clay shooting circuit. Shooters and officials from Australia, New Zealand, Lebanon, Ireland, India, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei will compete with the Philippine team seeing action in the Vietnam SEA Games.

Whitewater rafting takes a splash in Oro

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Whitewater Rafters Inc. holds the First National Whitewater Rafting Race on Oct. 16-19 at the Cagayan de Oro River. The four-day event will have a sprint race event at the Carmen Bridge and a down river rafting race at the Mambuaya-Kabula course. The race aims to promote whitewater rafting as a national sport and to select members of the national team that will compete in the International Rafting Championships. The event is supported by the office of the city mayor, Philippine Sports Commission, Department of Tourism, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other agencies. The association is now accepting team applications. For inquiries, call Rupert Domingo at (088) 8571270 or 0917-7073583, or May Salvaña at (008) 8575855 or 0918-9417405.

Adboard Cup golfest today at Sta. Elena

THE ADVERTISING Board of the Philippines (Adboard) Cup Golf Classic tees off today at Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in Cabuyao, Laguna, to raise funds for the nine member Adboard's Ad Aid Project called "Kalinga sa Kapwa." Tournament presenters are RPN 9, Air Philippines and Philippine Airlines. Major hole sponsors include Pagcor, Taylor Made, Procter & Gamble, Globe Telecoms, Smart Communications, San Miguel Corp., ABS-CBN, DHL Worldwide, Godiva, JKJ Media Services and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Minor hole sponsors include Philam Care, Anderson's, Volvo, Directories Phils., Republic Chem, Kraft Foods, Unilab, CAP, Petron Corp., Hartman, Pascual Laboratories, Solar Entertainment, Pfizer and the Philippine Star. Yamaha Golf Cart, courtesy of Kart Plaza, is the hole-in one prize

YAKULT 10 MILER: Michael Ong (left), Yakult Phils. Inc. assistant manager for sales and planning, and marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho seal with a handshake the agreement for the staging of Yakult 10 Miler on Nov. 9. The event, now on its 15th year, coincides with the Silver Jubilee celebration of Yakult Phils. Inc.

Armour builds 6-shot edge on clos

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Tommy Armour III birdied the last three holes to build a comfortable six-stroke lead after the third round of the $3.5 million Texas Open on Saturday.

Armour's seven-under-par 63 gave him a 21-under total of 189, tying the PGA Tour record set by John Cook in the 1996 FedEx St Jude Classic and Mark Calcavecchia in the 2001 Phoenix Open.

Duffy Waldorf, twice a winner of the tournament, carded an eight-under 62 to jump from a tie for 26th into second place on 195 at LaCantera Golf Club's Resort course.

Canada's Glen Hnatiuk moved into a tie for third on 197 with Bob Tway, Paul Goydos and Dan Forsman.

Armour, whose only PGA Tour victory came in the 1990 Phoenix Open, has not bogeyed a hole through three rounds in Texas. He was also without a dropped stroke in the last 18 holes of last week's Pennsylvania Classic.

Lee Trevino was the last man to play 72 holes without a bogey and win when he took the 1974 Greater New Orleans Open.

Armour, who told reporters he had never even been 21-under for 72 holes, said he was not surprised at how well he was playing.

"For the last couple of months I've been playing good," he said. "I lost the Canadian Open (earlier this month) by six shots.

"If I had made some putts in that tournament, I would have won by six, seven shots.

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Trouble-free Sorenstam ties for lead

SORENSTAM hits from a fairway sand trap on the 15th hole.
under-par 68 to catch Beth Daniel and Cristie Kerr in the lea

PORTLAND, Oregon—Beth Daniel had trouble with "helicopters," Cristie Kerr had trouble with other flying debris, but Annika Sorenstam had no trouble at all.

Sorenstam shot a bogey-free four-under-par 68 on Saturday to move into a tie for the lead with Daniel and Kerr after two rounds of the wind-blown LPGA Safeway Classic.

Filipino-American Dorothy Delasin rallied with a 67 after a 74 in the first round to be at 141, six shots behind the co-leaders and in a tie for 14th with Korea's Lee Jung-yeon, American Michelle Estill, Britain's Catriona Matthew and sensational amateur Michlle Wie.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales did not start for the tournament.

Daniel grabbed a four-stroke lead Friday with a 10-under 62. Trying for her second win in three months following an eight-year drought, the 46-year-old Hall of Famer struggled with gusty winds and posted a one-over 73 that left her at nine-under 135.

The gusty winds blew Daniel's ball downhill at the 17th hole after pelting her with pine needles at the eighth hole.

"Oh, my gosh. Right behind where that pin is on eight, there's one of those big fir trees, and it was blowing out little needles," she said. "I call them the helicopters." Kerr also had trouble with the wind but managed a three-under 69.

"The wind picked up and there was a ton of debris and stuff flying around on the golf course, which made it a little more difficult," she admitted.

Difficult but not impossible as Sorenstam negotiated the Columbia Edgewater Country Club course without a bogey. The Swedish superstar sprinkled in four birdies as she tries to defend her title and record a fifth win this season.

"Today, I thought, was a much tougher day than yesterday, obviously because of the wind," she said. "It started to pick up on our third, fourth hole and really gusted at times— two to three clubs. So I'm very pleased with my round." The three leaders have combined for 80 LPGA wins—79 by Daniel and Sorenstam.

"Annika is an amazing player; Beth is in the Hall of Fame," said Kerr, whose lone victory came at the Longs Drugs Challenge in April 2002.

"To be able to stay on top of your game like that, that's something I'm trying to do, trying to learn how to do that." Leta Lindley and South Korean Soo-Yun Kang carded 69s and are two shots off the lead at 7-under 137. It's another stroke back to Canada's Lorie Kane and South Korea's Grace Park.

Michelle Wie, the 13-year-old amateur sensation who missed the cut in a Nationwide Tour event last week, was six shots back after an even-par 72.

Suzy Whaley, a Connecticut club pro who qualified for and missed the cut at the PGA Tour's Greater Hartford Open in July, carded a 71 and barely made it here at one-over 145.

AFP

Albatross-spiked 62 powers Westwood atop Dunhill tilt

ST ANDREWS, Scotland—Lee Westwood produced a double eagle two at his par-five closing hole at Kingsbarns Saturday to vault into the lead of the Dunhill Links Championship over three Scottish courses.

Westwood's spectacular strike with a four-iron from 218 yards at the 558-yard ninth found the hole and sent the resurgent Englishman into a one-stroke lead over Darren Clarke and Frenchman Raphael Jacquelin.

Clarke, who won last month's NEC Invitational in Akron, compiled a 66 at Kingsbarns while Jacquelin birdied his last three holes at Carnoustie for a course record-equalling 64. Westwood leads on 200, 16 under with Clarke and Jacquelin on 201.

Michael Campbell of New Zealand held fourth place on his own after a 66 at Kingsbarns.

Ernie Els made a charge at the leaders but faltered at the end with a bogey-double bogey finish in his last two holes at Kingsbarns. He shares eighth place four shots off the lead.

PGA champion Shaun Micheel turned in his best round of the week, a 67 at Kingsbarns and on seven-under-par shared 32nd place going into Sunday's final round over The Old Course at St. Andrews.

"I'm beginning to understand the attraction of links golf and how you have to be patient," he said. "I've enjoyed the way I've played. I find the fairways here are about 10 feet wider than at home and that has helped me too."

Westwood has been in a prolonged slump since he won eight tournaments around the world in 2000.

But the magic vanished early in 2001 and it has been along climb back from a low ranking of 245th for the Englishman once ranked fourth in the world. He has been helped by Florida-based coach David Leadbetter and is now just outside the Top 100.

Victory in the BMW International in Munich last month was his first since 2000 and now he threatens another.

"When you're playing poorly you are not as aggressive with your iron shots so you don't go for as many flags. Then you're putting from 40 or 50 feet," he said. *AFP*

WESTWOOD: Rare shot. AFP

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Must Ateneo worry about La Salle's Mar

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE STATEMENT was right. Ateneo could win without the able and gifted LA Tenorio.

That fact was admitted by La Salle coach Franz Pumaren himself.

This had been proven last year, Pumaren explained.

OK. But there's one glaring detail Pumaren's rival on the Ateneo bench, the celebrated Joel Banal, has not made public.

Listen: La Salle could be doubly capable of losing with Mark Cardona.

Repeat: La Salle could not claim an outright edge even if Cardona suits up tomorrow.

Yes, this is quite harsh. It could, in fact, be termed biased and utterly unfair by La Salle diehards.

Still, this warning must be sounded off: Pumaren would do well to reconsider his options following reports that Cardona, the injured La Salle main man, could see action in the Archers-Eagles do-or-die match at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow.

***

Actually, this need not be a subject of debate. That's if you happened to have watched recent Ateneo-La Salle clashes.

Your reporter here had witnessed more than a couple of endgame sorties by the Archers, when Cardona would repeatedly ball-hog in a noble but blind bid to carry his team on his skinny shoulders.

They were ugly, sickening stretches, how Cardona would be allowed to do any which way he pleased to save the day for beleaguered La Salle.

Meanwhile, Cardona's teammates would just stare, if not freeze like decorative snowmen, once their main man would do a one-man Rambo job in facing the other team.

Hope you got the picture.

La Salle, after two successive falls this year, had finally done it over Ateneo with no help from Cardona on Thursday.

So would coach Pumaren gamble on his star gunner tomorrow?

***

The answer is Yes. Pumaren could field Cardona, if the fellow has recovered from injury. But, hopefully, not in the manner Pumaren had over-emphasized on his inconsistent main man in previous La Salle setbacks to Ateneo.

Look, Joseph Yeo may not be able to redo what he had epically essayed for La Salle in its stormy overtime win over Ateneo the last time.

But Pumaren would be frustrating a lot of people if he refused to play out his newfound options following last Thursday's come-from-behind victory, their first for the season over the Eagles.

Repeat: Pumaren could enjoy an edge following the suspension of the sharp, peppery Tenorio, but only if he uses his cards wisely.

Pumaren must react quickly, he must not tarry for a second once Cardona starts to burn his own house with blind, selfish sorties.

Better yet, with Cardona's worth, Pumaren could make his star play the role of a mature, more reliable team man, all in the name of cohesiveness.

Another thing: Cardona should be fielded only if he could prove capable of a more solid defense, actually the main factor behind La Salle

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eah, Armour said he and golf
Abbott finally realized why
ving well.

"Four months ago, I kept hitting some pull hooks and I couldn't figure it out," he said. "Everything I was doing, it wasn't fixing it. "Then, one day...Mike Abbott and myself, we just kind of saw it on video." The results, however, were slow to come. Armour, the grandson of three-time major champion Tommy Armour of Scotland, played only five tournaments through May and missed the cut in four.

His best showing in 2003 is a tie for 11th in the Canadian Open. *AP*

The Swede shot a five-
. REUTERS

Archers, Maroons arrange volleyball showdown

LA SALLE and University of the Philippines yesterday arranged a showdown for the men's volleyball crown of the 66th University Athletic Association of the Philippines.

Far Eastern U (FEU), on the other hand, earned another seat in the women's finals against either De La Salle or University of Santo Tomas, which will play a knockout semifinal match Wednesday.

The Archers, losing finalists the last two seasons and top seeds in the semifinals this year with a solitary loss in the 14-game eliminations, advanced to the finals after beating Adamson, 25-13, 25-15, 20-25, 27-25, in a grueling one-hour, 26-minute Final Four encounterat the UP Human Kinetics Gym in Diliman.

UP, which rose from seventh in 2001 to third in 2002 and a strong contender this season with its 11-3 win-loss eliminations record, needed more time—one hour and 39 minutes—in getting rid of FEU, 24-26, 25-18, 25-19, 25-18, for the other finals slot.

FEU (11-3) got the No. 3 seed in the semifinals after losing to the same Maroons crew in a playoff game last week.

The Lady Tamaraws handily beat the UE Redskirts, 25-9, 25-12, 25-21, in their women's semifinal duel also yesterday. The FEU ladies, who dominated the eliminations with a 13-1 card, played true to form against the fourth-ranked Redskirts, whom they disposed of in 50 minutes.

The Lady Archers, however, played gallantly against the Tigresses, forcing Wednesday's KO encounter with a 25-21, 25-14, 20-25, 25-21.

F, Negros Navigation e sepak takraw Open

RINCESA—Air Force got what and so did host Puerto Princesa e of the 2003 Men and Women Below 21 Sepak Takraw Na- mpionships Friday at the Gov. endoza Park.

ce-4 clinched the men's open ded by Air Force-2, which could third this time, in the weeklong pported by the Philippine Sports n and the city government of ncesa.

e-4 defeated another sister team, ; 21-13, 22-20, in Friday's siz- to bag the crown and shared the with Negros Navigation, which e women's open and Puerto ity-A, which ruled the youth (un- tegory.

Navigation beat favored Puerto , 21-19, 21-10, in the women's finals, but the hosts, however, had enough reasons to rejoice with PPC-A's conquest of the youth (under-21) division of the tournament organized by the Philippine Amateur Sepak Takraw Association.

Besides Air Force-2, Cavite and Palawan State University-A took the bronze medals in the women's and youth, respectively.

The champion teams each received trophies and its members individual medals on top of the P30,000 cash prize. The second placers got P20,000 and third placers P10,000 each.

"I congratulate not only the winners of the tournament but everyone who participated in the championships," said Mayor Edward Hagedorn during Friday's awards ceremonies. "But I also would like to thank the people of Puerto Princesa who have not ceased to support me in our vision for sports development."

k Cardona?

big victory on Thursday.
actually praying for a Car-
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***

re are indications the play-
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to see to it that no burly mili-
officers, like the heavily
members who swarmed into
time out, would reappear in

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ry and police officers need
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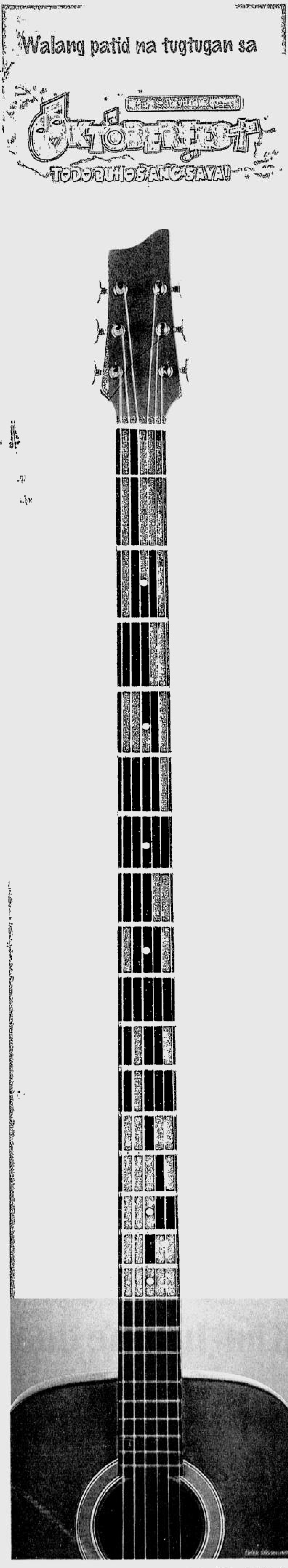
AP Commissioner Joe Lipa
n demonstrated they could
prevent the regular shoot-out on the court from deteriorating into an ugly, savage war.

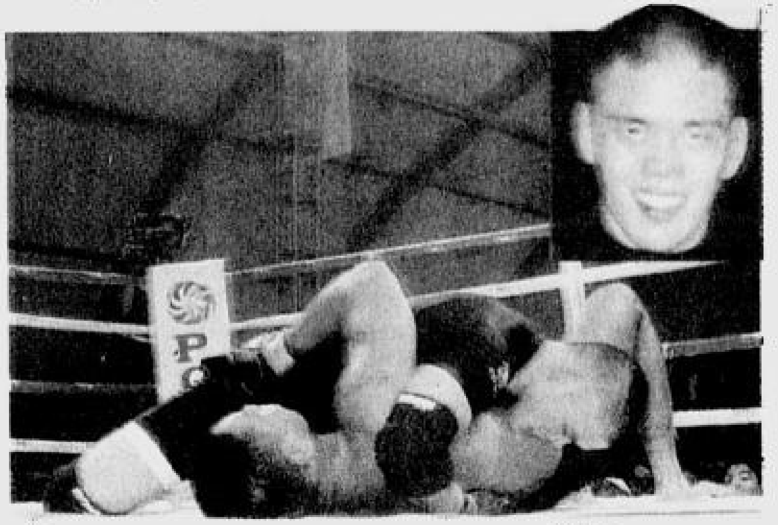
For one, the Ateneo-La Salle clash last week failed to dislodge from the top of the television ratings the Kris-Joey love-affair slug-out.

We should, of course, thank both schools for restoring sanity and momentarily saving poor kids who had to be assured that Tenorio's punch was not as dirty as the disease Ms Aquino had graphically narrated to the stunned public.

***

(FORE: Mount Malarayat Golf & Country Club in Lipa City will again host the Lipa Cathedral Fund-raising Golf Tournament on Oct. 10. The first tournament last year raised additional funds for the repair and refurbishment of the rare pipe organ at the San Sebastian Cathedral. Msgr. Alfredo Madlangbayan, vicar-general and parish priest of the Lipa Cathedral, said this year's tournament would raise funds to ensure perpetual care and maintenance of the pipe organ, finance music education of organists, and help promote musical art and culture. Sponsors of the tournament are entitled to free golf tickets. For details, call Bing at 043-756-55-90.)





FRITZ Hahn Rodriguez of Deftac makes his move against Richie Lazaro of Pasukuan Laban. Rodriguez (inset) scored a hard-earned win.

REALITY COMBAT

Rodriguez beats Lazaro by tap-out

DON'T mess with heavyweight jujitsu expert Fritz Hahn Rodriguez.

Representing Deftac, Rodriguez took the spotlight when he subdued the bigger and tougher-looking Richie Lazaro of Pasukuan Labanan during the well-attended Universal Reality Combat Championship at the NBC Tent recently.

Rodriguez, who honed his skill in Belgium, United States and even in the mixed martial arts hotbed of Brazil, won by tap-out although there were at least a couple of times when the tattooed Lazaro came on the brink of scoring an upset win.

But Rodriguez's expertise in ground fighting proved to be crucial in pulling the plug on Lazaro's bid to beat him in front of a celebrity-studded crowd.

The fight was his second under the URCC banner although he had also seen action in a few underground fights way before the URCC got the blessings of the Games and Amusements Board.

The ring almost collapsed shortly after Rodriguez, a La Salle student, was declared winner as he was joined there by his hordes of supporters and cornermen.

Although the next staging of the URCC is still being mapped out, Rodriguez is certain to be in the card.

"I train very hard for fights," said Rodriguez, son of Romeo Rodriguez of Multinational Investment Bancorporation. "I am ready to rumble."

The other match winners in the 15-bout program were Glenn Sumanoy (Deftac Dumaguete), TJ Tiu (Freestyle Wrestling), Charlie Angel (Way of the Champion) and Mark Sungiao (Wushu Baguio).

Rod "The Bull" Asiong of Yaw Yan Baguio also won via technical knockout, while Mike Banayad of Sunokar Todo Bakbakan prevailed by knockout.

SMC All-Stars rout Team Ilocos

STO. DOMINGO, Ilocos Sur—The San Miguel All-Stars routed Team Ilocos Sur, 96-63, in a goodwill game recently at the Sto. Domingo Gym here.

Powered by Chito Loyzaga, Ric-Ric Marata and Elmer Reyes, the All-Stars of coach Cris Calilan showed that they can still run-and-gun with younger players.

The SMC All-Stars is composed of former PBA players divided into two teams, the North and South.

The Ilocos Sur stop, the 60th in the All-Stars' schedule since March, was made possible by its former governor, Luis "Chavit" Singson through the cooperation of the provincial government headed by Gov. DV Savellano.

Team Ilocos Sur, built around some Fil-Ams, veteran journeymen and local talents, will compete in the National Basketball League starting next month.

The All-Stars also conducted the Skin Builders Hoop Camp, attended by nearly 100 children aged 7-14, in a covered court in Vigan.

It marked the second time in two weeks that the All Stars visited the Ilocos Region. A week earlier, the other squad coached by Eric Altamirano—also the project director—showed their wares in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

In that game, Henry Fernandez buried the home team with a tour-high 12 triples.

CHITO Loyzaga, wearing his old Ginebra San Miguel jersey, delights a young fan with a souvenir item at halftime.

Paro seeks Pan-Asia superfly title today

BANGKOK—Sherwin "Super Assassin" Paro of the ALA-Elorde Stable challenges Pan-Asia Boxing Association superfly king Komrith Eveready-Gym in a 12-round fight today in this Thai capital.

An explosive ending is predicted with both the 20-year-old Paro and the southpaw Komrith going into the bout undefeated.

The Filipino is unbeaten in 12 fights with 9 KOs while the 26-year-old Komrith is unscathed in 11 outings, winning 10 inside the distance.

The two boast of tremendous credentials. Paro is a former national amateur champion. Komrith, on the other hand, is a decorated ex-Muay Thai fighter.

"I am prepared to take the crown away. I'm physically and mentally set for this biggest fight of my career," said Paro before the official weigh-in at the Rajanadern Stadium here in Bangkok yesterday.

"Sir Ala and my manager Marty Elorde are both behind me," he added, referring to his benefactor, Cebu sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer and manager Marty, son of the late Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

Paro's trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor said his ward can pull off an upset, considering their long preparation for the fight.

Two other Filipinos, Gerry Pahayahay and Ricky Gozo, are seeing action in the undercard against Thai fighters. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

VALENCIA'S Oliveira (second from left) scores as Real Madrid's Esteban Cambiasso (19) holds his head in disbelief. REUTERS

Valencia booters blank Beckham, Real

MADRID—Valencia took advantage of a woeful performance from Real Madrid to claim a 2-0 win at home to the defending Spanish champions on Saturday and replace beaten Deportivo Coruna at the top of the table.

Depor's surprise 3-2 defeat at Osasuna handed Valencia the chance to lead the Primera Liga standings and they took it in style, sending Real to their first league defeat of the season.

Rafa Benitez's side went in front after four minutes through Mista and a Ricardo Oliveira strike in the second half clinched a surprisingly comfortable win.

The result proved enough to give Valencia the leadership with 13 points from five games after Deportivo lost their 100-percent record at Osasuna.

Depor blew their chance of a fifth successive victory by conceding three goals in a nightmare four-minute spell in the first half.

They dropped to second on 12 points with Real Madrid and Osasuna both on 10 in third and fourth, respectively.

Barcelona, with eight points from four games, could move up to third with victory away to Atletico Madrid in one of six matches being played on Sunday.

Valencia, the 2002 champion, came at Real with all guns blazing and was rewarded with an early goal.

The home side duly reverted to a more defensive approach but Real failed to make any headway, with Zinedine Zidane, Ronaldo and David Beckham suffering a collective off-day.

Valencia was content to soak up pressure and hit Real on the break and their second goal arrived after 71 minutes, when Casillas could only block an Oliveira header. *Reuters*

Germany unbeaten after opening round

Brazil, Norway also advance in World Cup

NEW YORK—European champion Germany finished the first round of the Women's World Cup with a perfect record after crushing winless Argentina, 6-1, in Group C.

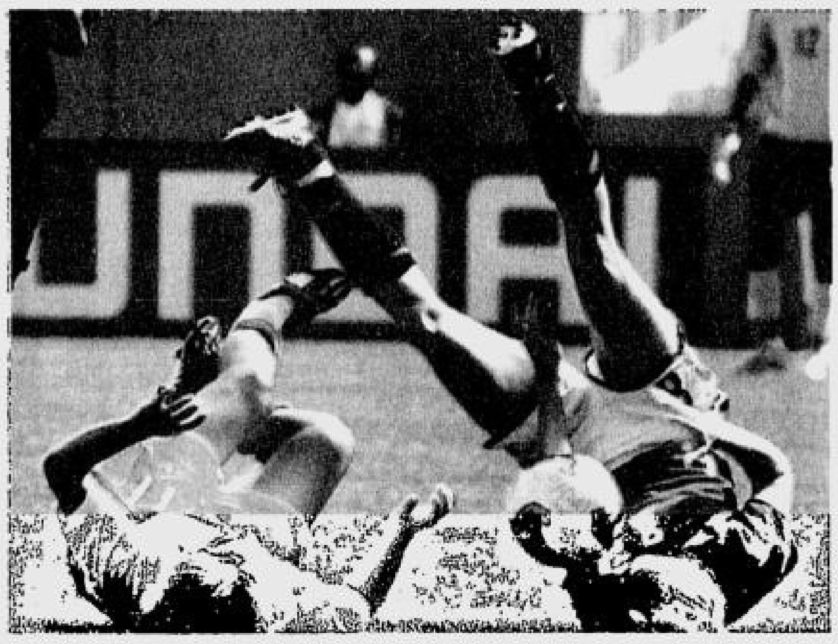
Brazil nearly did the same in Group B, but an injury-time equalizer from France star Marinette Pichon set the final score at 1-1.

Both teams won their groups Saturday and advanced to the World Cup quarterfinals.

"It was our goal to win our group, but we didn't think it would be so easy," said Birgit Prinz, who scored her fourth goal of the tournament. "We were very good. We had a good three games. I think we have a serious chance to win this World Cup."

Germany will face the second-place team in Group D on Thursday in Portland, Oregon, while Brazil takes on the second-place team from Group A on Wednesday in Foxboro, Massachusetts.

Also Saturday, former champion Norway routed South Korea, 7-1, to clinch the second spot from Group B and Canada topped Japan, 3-1, to advance from Group C.



JI EUN Lee (left) of South Korea and Solveig Gulbrandsen of Norway fall to the ground as they battle for ball control. REUTERS

They will play the other two group winners, which could be defending champion United States from Group A and 1999 runner-up China from Group D.

"We've beaten the US before and it's possible to do it again," said Norway captain Dagny Mellgren, who scored two goals Saturday.

In Washington, Maren Meinert got two goals for Germany while Prinz, Bettina Wiegmann, Conny Pohlers and Martina Mueller added the others. *AP*

GERMANY'S Martina Mueller (right) goes up in the air against Argentina's goalie, Romina Ferro. REUTERS

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'Scud' shoots down Novak in final

SHANGHAI—Third seed Mark Philippoussis crushed Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-1, Sunday to win the $380,000 Shanghai Open here.

The big-serving Australian, nicknamed "Scud," needed only 45 minutes to smash the powerful tournament top seed, relying on his usual combination of aces—nine in the match—solid ground strokes and net play.

"I was aggressive out there today in all parts of my game—I didn't want him dictating the points—and I came out swinging," said the 27-year old.

"I put him on the back foot from the word go," he said.

The victory gave the Wimbledon finalist his first triumph since Memphis in early 2001, helping him climb to ninth in the ATP champions race from his current 15th.

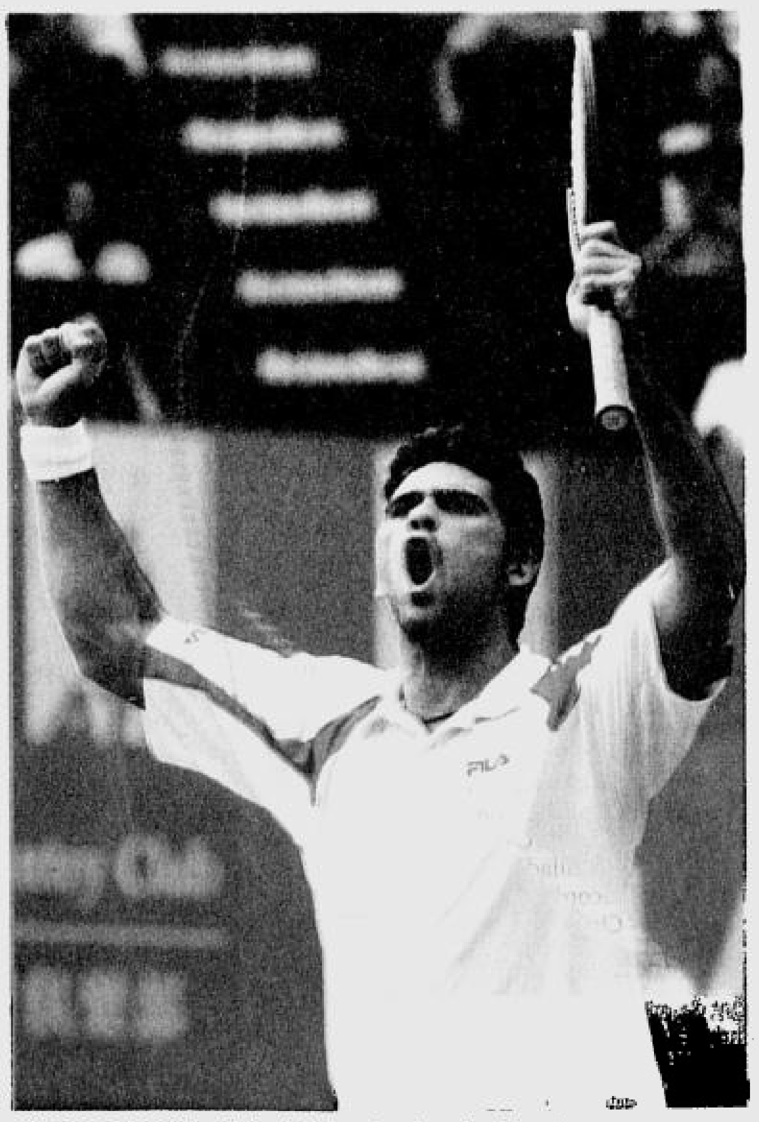
Novak, who was shooting for his second ATP win of the year after triumphing in Gstaad, conceded that Philippoussis had played "excellent" tennis and that he had not been able to answer Philippoussis' pounding attack.

"From the beginning I felt good on the court, but Mark was playing excellent tennis—he was just killing everything, he was playing so quick," Novak said.

The very fast hard court seemed to suit Philippoussis, who said he had been feeling comfortable all week, despite a late arrival here following his loss to Switzerland's Roger Federer in the Davis Cup.

During Sunday's final, the usually consistent Czech saw his steady style fall apart as he committed a litany of unforced errors and shot after shot sailed wide or into the net.

Novak's trouble began in the fifth game of the first set, as the "Scud" caught the world number 12 off guard with a couple of drop shots. *AFP*



PHILIPPOUSSIS yells in delight after beating Novak. REUTERS

Kim-Justine duel fizzles out

LEIPZIG, Germany—World number one Kim Clijsters' hopes of setting up an eagerly awaited clash with Belgian countrywoman Justine Henin-Hardenne were wrecked by injury here on Saturday when she was forced to retire from the $585,000 WTA tournament.

Clijsters was leading Russia's Anastasia Myskina, 7-5, 4-4, in her semifinal and looked on course for a final place when she had to call it quits because of an injured right foot.

"Three days ago I was walking down the stairs from the player lounge and I tripped over one step and did something to my right ankle," said the 20-year-old who now misses the chance to gain revenge over Henin-Hardenne who beat her in the French and US Open finals this season—defeats which prompted a much-publicized falling out between the pair.

"The ankle didn't hurt at all at first but when Anastasia did a wide serve on the first point of the eighth game today, I slid into the shot and I felt a sharp pain on the inside of my right ankle.

"It was throbbing right away and I called the WTA Tour trainer. I tried to play after the taping but it was no good. This is really disappointing as I was up and close to finishing the match and I was really looking forward to trying to get to the final after losing to Anastasia in the semis here last year.

World number two Henin-Hardenne cruised into the final with a 6-0, 6-3 straight sets victory over Venezuelan qualifier Maria Vento-Kabchi.

US and French Open champion Henin-Hardenne will hope to close the gap on her compatriot Clijsters in the world rankings on Sunday while Myskina will aim to improve on last year when she lost to Venus Williams in the final. *AFP*

Dent shocks Ferrero

NONTHABURI, Thailand—America's Taylor Dent claimed a major upset Sunday, beating world No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (5), to claim the inaugural US$550,000 ATP Thailand Open.

Both players held their serves comfortably until the 22-year-old Dent applied pressure at the net to take the first set.

The eight-seeded American stayed forward in the second set to dominate his more experienced opponent before a capacity crowd at the 10,000-seater Impact Arena.

No. 1 Ferrero used impressive returns to break Dent in the eighth game and found himself back in the match at 4-4 all. The set continued with both holding their games until the tie-break.

Dent jumped to a 5-3 lead in the tie-break, but Ferrero fought back to level at 5-5.

Dent capitalized on a Ferrero error with a backhand slice winner to take the match.

Meanwhile, American Andre Agassi has pulled out of three European tournaments scheduled for next month so he can devote more time to his family. *AP, AFP*

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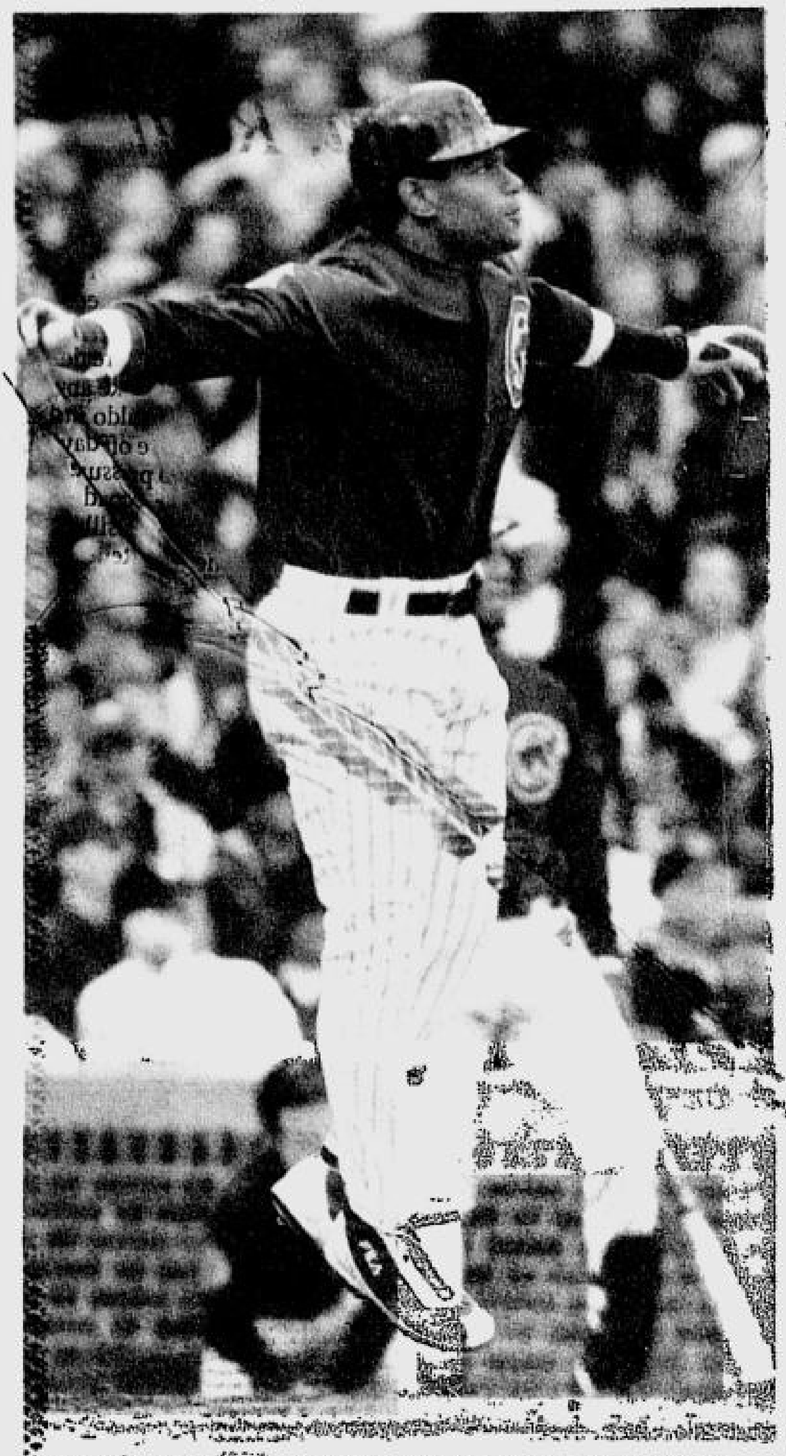


CHICAGO Cubs Sammy Sosa hops after hitting a home run in the second inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates. AP

Cubs sweep Pirates, top NL Central

CHICAGO—Dusty Baker, who was hired to help the Cubs forget their losing ways, guided Chicago to its first division title in 14 years with a doubleheader sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates, 4-2 and 7-2 Saturday.

The Cubs—67-95 just a year ago—clinched the NL Central and advanced to meet Atlanta in the first round of the playoffs.

The victory touched off a raucous celebration at Wrigley Field where 40,121 fans, many wearing coats on a chilly 15.5-degree Celsius (60-degree Fahrenheit) day, began to chant "Let's Go Cubs" in the seventh inning.

"The city of Chicago has been yearning for this and it's awesome," center fielder Kenny Lofton said. "We're in the playoffs and that's a start. The fans haven't seen it in a while."

Sammy Sosa hit his 40th homer and Matt Clement pitched 7 2-3 strong innings as the Cubs earned their first division championship since Don Zimmer led to the NL East crown in 1989.

"I just said `Why not us?'" Baker said. "This is only the first step in a four-step process. We've got three steps to climb and this club is willing and ready."

The Cubs are in the postseason for the first time since 1998 when they beat Baker and the San Francisco Giants in a one-game playoff for the NL wild card.

Chicago got its chance to clinch because of second-place [illegible] Houston's 5-2 loss to Milwaukee earlier in the day.

Sosa became the first NL player to reach 40 homers six straight times with a 135-meter (450-foot) blast in the first off Ryan Vogelsong (2-2). Clement (14-12) got the win and Joe Borowski got his 33rd save.

Mark Prior (18-6) pitched 6 2-3 impressive innings and Damian Miller homered in the opener. Josh Fogg (10-9) took the loss.

In Houston, Scott Podsednik and the last-place Milwaukee denied Houston a chance to stay in the NL Central race after a 5-2 victory.

Podsednik had three hits and three runs as the Brewers beat Houston for the second straight day.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, Roy Halladay became the only 22-game winner in the major leagues as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Cleveland Indians 5-4.

Halladay (22-7) set a team record for wins, surpassing Roger Clemens and Jack Morris.

"This was pretty special to me," said the normally reserved Halladay, who pumped his fist after the last out. *AP*

SLLP races set this week

ANOTHER top-notch program of well-balanced races starts tomorrow at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

The week-long racing schedule includes four evening cards of nine races each from Tuesday to Friday starting at 6 p.m. and two weekend programs of 14 and 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

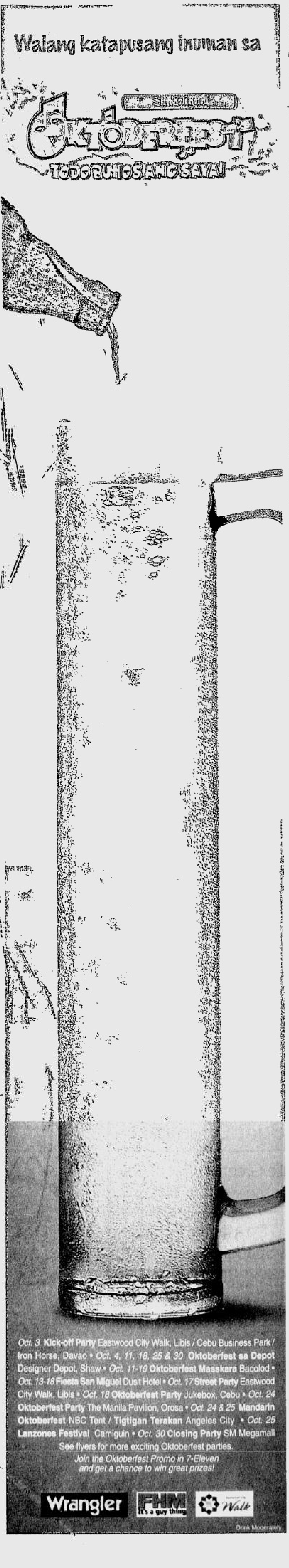
This week's program of races at the SLLP serves aperitif to coming major races this October at the SLLP.

These events include the 2nd Derby Day and the sixth and final leg of the Imported Stakes Series on Oct. 19 and the 4th Philtobo Mitra Cup Racing Festival starting on Oct. 28.

The SLLP currently boasts of a twin-oval all-weather racetrack that is the pride of local racing. MJCI utilizes both ovals on a regular basis depending on the distance of the scheduled race.

More than 600 horses are currently stabled at the club's stabling facility which is still being expanded to accommodate more than 1,000 horses.

The San Lorenzo Leisure Park is only 36 kilometers south of Manila and is easily accessible by using either the Carmona or Southwoods Exits.



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Tergat shatters world record at Berlin race

BERLIN—Kenya's Paul Tergat shattered the men's world record Sunday at the Berlin Marathon, running through the heart of the German capitol in 2:04.56.

That eclipsed the 2:05.38 set by Moroccan-born American Khalid Khannouchi on April 14, 2002 in London.

Tergat finished second to Khannouchi in that race, 10 seconds behind, and often was the runner-up at big races in his career. It was his first marathon triumph in six tries despite owning two of the fastest times in history.

"I said this time I wanted to try for the record. I'm very happy, Tergat said.

Berlin's flat course is one of the world fastest, with three world records set there in recent years. Before the event, there was a lot of talk the men's mark would fall again, with the five-time cross country world champion the leading candidate.

On a cool, cloudy morning, Tergat's two pacemakers set a blistering pace that kept the Kenyan at a pace near 2:04 throughout the race.

TERGAT: I'm happy. AFP

Meanwhile, Yasuko Hashimoto won the women's race in two hours, 26 minutes and 32 seconds.

Hashimoto, who took the lead from Alina Ivanova of Russia at 35 kilometers, crossed the line almost two minutes ahead of her nearest rivals, second-placed Kenya's Emily Kimuria (2:28:18) and Ornella Ferrara of Italy in third, another 10 seconds behind. *AP*

Blockbuster PSA Cup set

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

IN A meeting last Friday with the sports media, including some members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, Philracom chair Jaime Dilag announced the holding of the second PSA Cup, an annual horseracing extravaganza held in honor of the country's leading journalists who made their presence felt in the racing industry during their prime.

"We are grateful to the Philippine Racing Commission for approving this worthy project," said much admired PSA president Bert Cuevas of the Standard in response to Dilag's approval of this year's PSA Cup on Nov. 15 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Last year, the PSA Cup was launched in style at the old San Lazaro Hippodrome on Tayuman Street and achieved one of the biggest gross sales in recent memory.

"This year's PSA Cup will again cite another batch of honorees such as former PCSO general manager and NPC president Nereo Andolong, who conceived the annual Presidential Gold Cup," said racing columnist Camilo Mendez Jr., now chief steward at Santa Ana Park and son of the late racing writer and respected tipster Camilo Mendez Sr. Newspaper editor Pocholo Romualdez, a former Philracom commissioner and PSA founding member, and the late Rudy Navaro, Tempo's hard-hitting columnist and sports editor, should be cited, too, I added.

During the same meeting also attended by commissioner Rogelio Tandiama, Dilag said the racing agency has absolutely nothing to do with the recent controversial importation of racehorses. "The importation of racehorses is not within our jurisdiction. That's why we have requested Malacañang to transfer (from the Bureau of Animal Industry) to the Philracom the authority to monitor and regulate the importation of racehorses," Dilag said. He stressed that the transfer is very important because it is—without question—already the public's perception that anything related to horseracing and horses are necessarily under the jurisdiction of the Philracom.

Last week, the Philippine Sports Commission and Pampanga Vice Gov. and presidential son Mikey Arroyo were linked to reports about the tax-free importation of 17 Australian racehorses.

Reacting to the reports, chair Eric Buhain said the PSC had only approved the tax-free importation of five horses which were endorsed by the Philippine Equestrian Federation as part of the PEF'S program to produce another Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, gold medal winner in the last Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Buhain added that even though the PSC can always make representations for tax exemptions in the importation of sporting equipment or equestrian horses in the case of the PEF, the reports that taxes were paid for the questioned horses only meant "the PSC did not participate in the importation at all."

Earlier, racehorse owners Lamberto Almeda Jr., of Junna Group of Companies, and Dante Arevalo, of Broadcom Asia, said they had paid P525,222 as tax payment after claiming ownership of the 17 thoroughbred horses from Australia.

"Nothing in the purchase and importation of the horses links Mikey Arroyo at all," Almeda was quoted as saying.

***

PAT ON THE BACK. Never-say-die Willie Miller and prized draftee Enrico Villanueva deserve a pat on the back for spearheading Red Bull's come-from-behind victory over the previously unbeaten Coca-Cola Tigers, 97-91, last Friday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Coca-Cola, which led 52-36, at halftime, dropped to 5-1, while Red Bull jumped to 4-2 in the PBA Reinforced Conference team standings.

With 1:26 to go in the exciting game, Miller, famous for his fancy plays, completed a three-point play that propelled Red Bull to an 89-85 lead. On the return play and with 39 ticks remaining, the stout-hearted Villanueva, a former Ateneo King Eagle, stole the ball and scored on a jump shot to fortify the Barako advantage, 91-85.

With time down to 28.7 seconds and the count at 93-88, Coke import Tim McClary connected with a sizzling three-point shot from the corner to narrow the gap to 93-91. But Miller came to the rescue by scoring two of four charities in the dying seconds to hike the lead to 95-91, with 5.7 left. Villanueva then sealed the victory with a dunk.

After the game, winning coach Yeng Guiao said his players are now more focused on their game, adding that the Photokina franchise is also fortunate to acquire an effective import in NBA veteran Scott Burrell, a member of the 1998 champions Chicago Bulls.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS From page A27

1. False (The NBA-powered US team won, 106-73)
2. Badminton
3. China
4. Bacolod City
5. Ruslan Ponomariov (Ukraine)
6. Kelli White
7. Bob Sapp

SPORTS

US GRAND PRIX

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INDIANAPOLIS—Kimi Raikkonen, chasing Formula One points leader Michael Schumacher with two races left in the season, won the pole position Saturday for the US Grand Prix.

Schumacher qualified a disappointing seventh, his worst in the four years since the race returned to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Juan Pablo Montoya, the only other driver besides Raikkonen with a chance to catch Schumacher for the series title, was fourth fastest.

"We haven't got much running this week, just a half an hour yesterday and one session today. I wasn't happy with the car, but we just got it right for qualifying," said Raikkonen, who qualified his McLaren Mercedes in 1 minute, 11.670 seconds, .124 seconds faster than Rubens Barrichello, Schumacher's Ferrari teammate and the defending race winner.

Schumacher, who qualified in 1:12.194, will go into Sunday's race with 82 points. Montoya has 79 and Raikkonen 75.

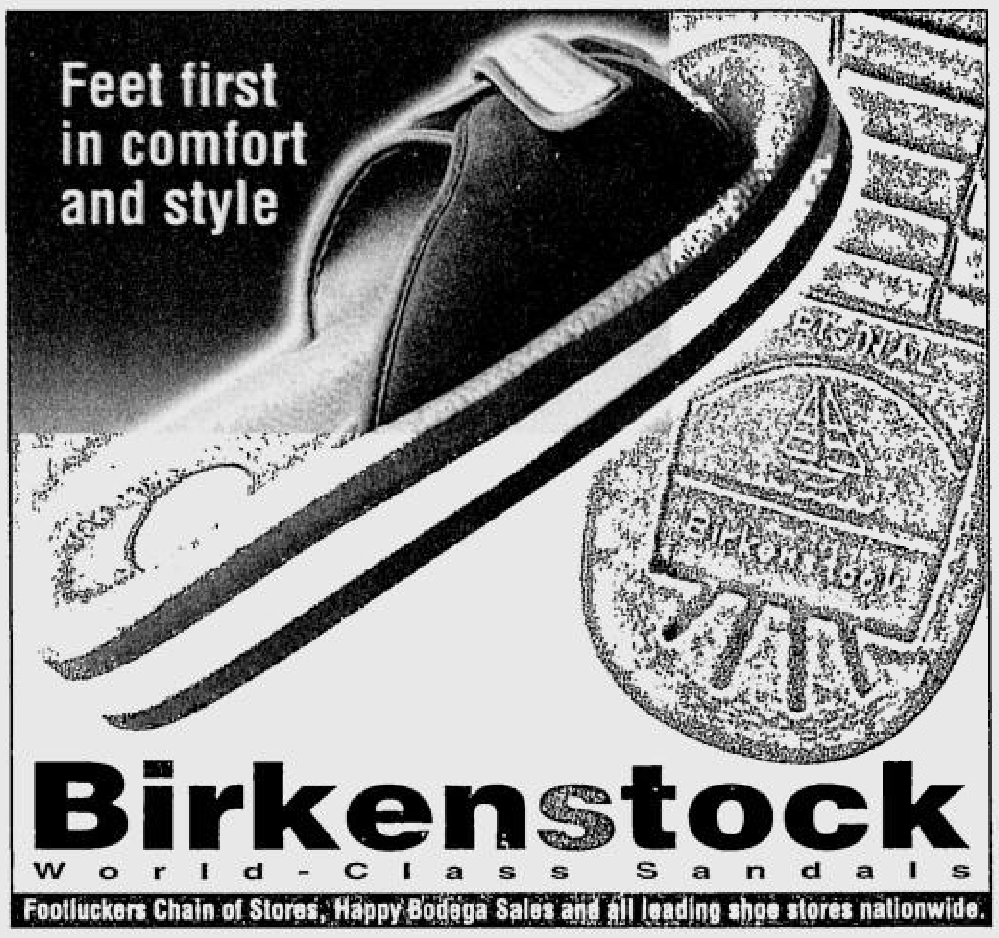
"Of course it's a better position, but the race is long," said Raikkonen, whose only other career pole was in June in the European Grand Prix. "We have a good strategy for the race and I'm pretty sure we have a good chance to win."

The final race of the season is Oct. 12 in the Japanese Grand Prix.

"Of course it helps. You never know what's going to happen in the race, but it's always safer to start in the first two rows," Raikkonen said of his starting position ahead of Schumacher and Montoya.

Barrichello qualified in 1:11.794. *AP*

RAIKKONEN gives a thumbs up after his qualifying run. AFP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Cebuanos rule triathlon meet

CEBU entries continued their dominance in the Triathlon Association of the Philippines' (TRAP) developmental age-group program by winning the men's and women's National Age-Group Triathlon overall championship yesterday at the Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City.

Eldy Banluta and Mylene Jarina both posted come-from-behind victories to win their respective age groups and earn the needed points to win the overall NGT crowns for the year.

The 23-year-old Banluta, a senior customs administration student of the University of Cebu where he is a varsity swimmer, was behind in the 750-meter swim and 22-km bike but made his move in the 6-km run and took advantage of erstwhile pacer Earl Rustia (Bacolod) getting hit by stomach cramps to take the lead for good in the last 4 km. He timed 1 hour, 15 minutes and 49 seconds.

The event was sponsored by Enervon, Speedo, Nike, Monoc Bike Frames, Reliv Philippines, David's Day Spa, Philippine Sorts Commission, POC Sports For All Commission and the Ayala Alabang Village Association headed by governors Boy Arceo and Guy Romauldez.

In the distaff side, comebacking former national champion Michelle Ferrer-Montes won in 1:25:25 for her second leg victory.

Other winners were Joseph Anthony and Mimi Lucas (15-19), Eldy Banluta (20-24), Andy Leuterio (25-29), Hiroshi Takei (30-34), Abet Alon-Alon (35-39), Rune Stroem (40-44) and Alvin Alindogan (45-49).

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Ohio posts 19th win

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Linebacker A.J. Hawk made 13 tackles and fourth-ranked Ohio State limited Northwestern to 185 yards to win its 19th straight game, 20-0, Saturday.

Neither offense mustered much in the Big Ten opener as Ohio State (5-0) posted its first shutout in 62 games, dating to a 41-0 victory at Illinois in 1998.

Lydell Ross had a 12-yard touchdown run, Scott McMullen connected with Ryan Hamby on a 1-yard scoring pass and Mike Nugent kicked a pair of field goals. Northwestern (2-3) missed two field goals. *AP*

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Gov't rejects higher income tax exemption

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has rejected a proposal to increase the the annual income tax exemption of wage and salary workers to P50,000 each, an increase of 150 percent from the current P20,000.

Malacañang earlier asked the DOF to study the proposal, which was raised by the Formal Labor and Migrant Workers Sector during a recent meeting of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

However, the DOF said the proposal would reduce the government's revenue by P10.5 billion a year and consequently bloat the budget deficit.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told President Arroyo in a letter that his department could not support the proposal at a time when the government was striving to bring down the budget deficit to more manageable levels.

According to the DOF, the proposal to raise the tax exemption would practically take away tax collections from 58 percent of single taxpayers, 74 percent of taxpayers classified as head-of-the-family, and 64 percent of married taxpayers.

Individual tax exemptions vary depending on the civil status. A single taxpayer is entitled to a P20,000 exemption yearly, a single but head of the family gets P25,000, while a married individual is entitled to P35,000.

A family of six comprised of two married and working spouses could be entitled to an annual income tax exemption of as much as P96,000. Each dependent entitles the taxpayer to a deduction of P8,000.

Camacho admitted that the proposal would reduce the income tax burden of all income groups such that a married taxpayer earning P80,000 a year would pay a tax of only 0.2 percent from 1.7 percent, a person earning P100,000 a year would pay only 1.7 percent from the current 3.7 percent, a an employee earning P150,000 a year would pay only 5.8 percent from 7.9 percent.

Married taxpayers earning P300,000 a year would need to pay a tax rate of 14.3 percent instead of 15.8 percent while those getting P500,000 would pay 21 percent instead of 22 percent under the proposal of the labor and migrant workers sector.

The tax burden of the single taxpayer would go down to 2.7 percent, 4.9 percent, 9 percent, 16.3 percent and 22.4 percent for each of the five levels from the current rates of 7.7 percent, 9.3 percent, 12.7 percent, 19.2 percent, and 24.2 percent.

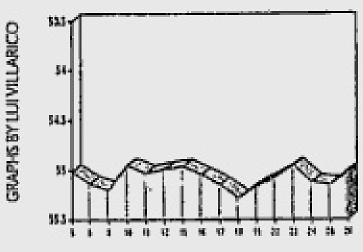
Camacho said that adopting the proposal would "exert a great pressure on the fiscal position of the national government and will result in a higher fiscal deficit."

The Macapagal administration is pressed to bring down the budget gap this year to P202 billion after a fiscal blowout last year swelled the deficit to P210.7 billion

GOV'T/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER

GRAPHS BY LUI VILLARICO

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per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 26, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Slight gains seen this week

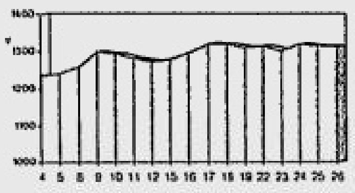
AFTER a week of consolidation, mixed sentiment still awaits local stocks this week following fresh uncertainties arising from domestic political jitters and a planned cut in the production of the Opec.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index closed at 1,313.85 on

SLIGHT/ B6

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER



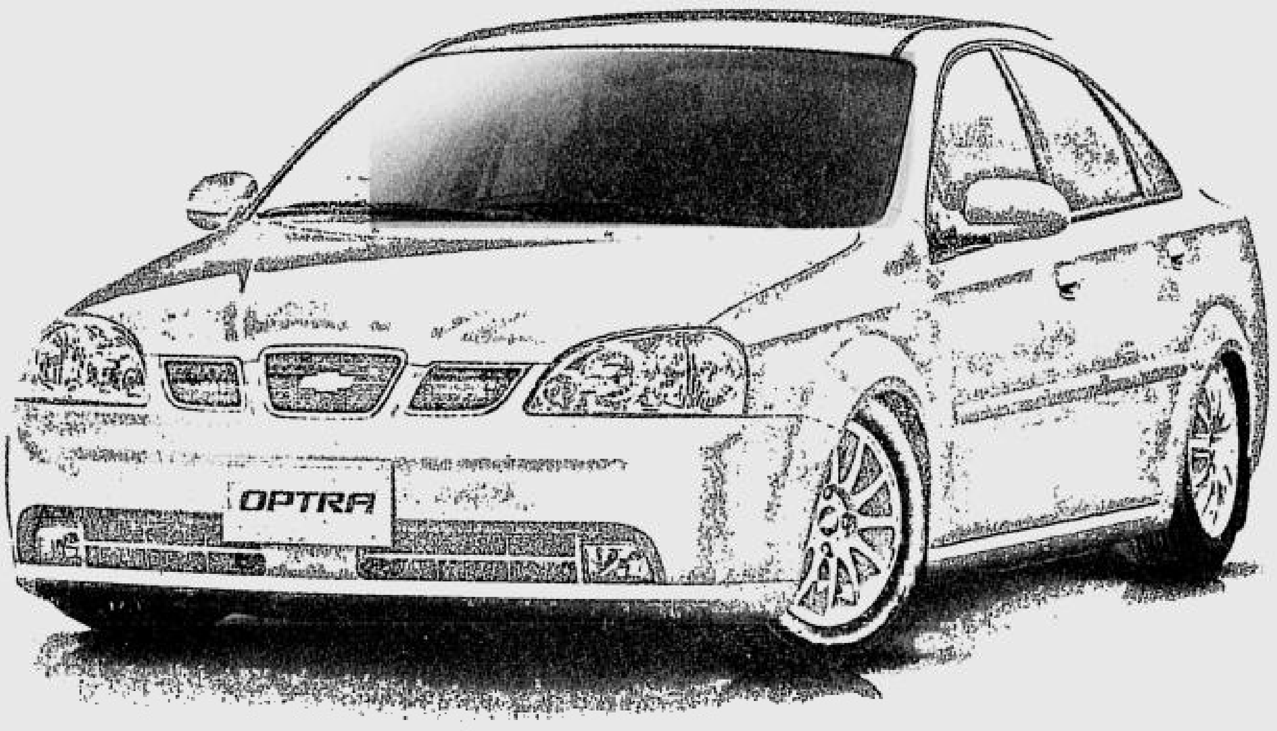
(See stock market report on Page B6)

BUENAVENTURA

BSP governor gets 'A' grade

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has received for the second straight year a grade of "A" from New York-based Global Finance Magazine, which described him as "a steady hand on the tiller of a troubled economy" even while appealing a one-year suspension.

BSP/ B2



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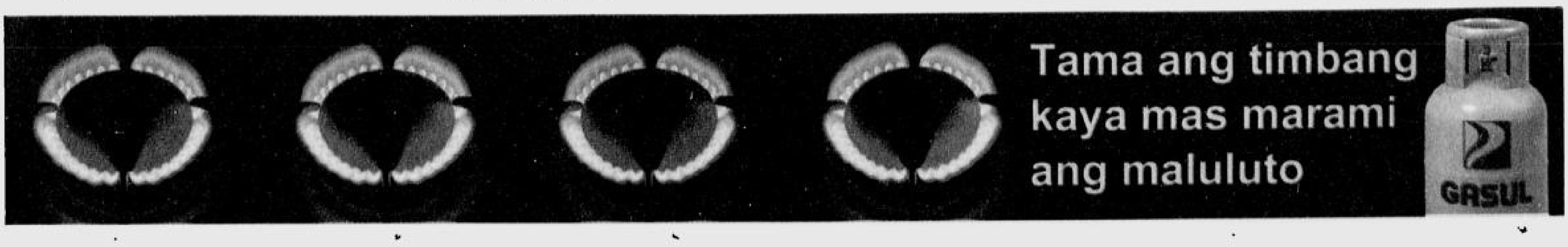

Banks seek more incentives in sale of bad loans, assets

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE INFLUENTIAL Bankers Association of the Philippines is seeking more incentives from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to promote the sale of nonperforming loans and acquired assets under the framework established by the Special Purpose Vehicle law.

In an interview, BAP president Cesar Virata said the group has asked the BSP to allow banks to also write off over a seven-year period losses from the sale of non-performing assets to a special purpose vehicle if zero-coupon bonds are accepted as payment.

The BSP earlier gave its nod to the seven-year accounting treatment for losses when banks are paid with subordinated notes.

So far, however, no transaction availing of the incentives granted by the SPV law has been completed because banks have balked at selling their NPAs at very low prices offered by investors. Bankers said potential buyers have been offering only 10 to 15 centavos for every peso of NPAs.

"The exchange of zero-coupon bonds for property is probably a better deal with the banks than subordinated notes," Virata said.

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Run of the male

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

GLORIAETTA'S camp is trying to forge new political linkages, and they are not just your run-of-the-mill, here's-your-doleout type of alliances.

Her boys are sending feelers to the Nationalist People's Coalition, for instance, or the NPC, for an agreement in 2004.

Clearly, it's not going to be an all-male lineup running in 2004, not your usual run of the male. Definitely, Gloriaetta will run in the next elections.

I don't know, but if you go out looking to cement some political alliances, you don't just want to play bingo or something.

* * *

NOT exactly is NPC a pushover party. It has 80 or so congressmen, plus a host of incumbent governors and mayors, not to mention barangay tanod.

Anyway, NPC must feel important nowadays. The opposition party LDP is also trying to woo NPC to join the opposition coalition in 2004.

Maybe that's why the officialdom of NPC wants to create the impression that the party will field its own presidential team. You know—for negotiating leverage.

Well, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., chair and CEO of San Miguel, is NPC's one and only prospect for 2004. He founded the party, okay?

His close-ins are saying that, as days go by, it is becoming more and more likely, because of many different factors, that Danding is not--again, NOT—going to run.

* * *

THUS, by declaring Danding still as a "possible," perhaps NPC wants to see some more carrots from both the opposition and the Gloriaetta camp.

Among the members of NPC, nevertheless, particularly those in the House, the Gloriaetta camp has a little problem in this courting game.

How come, if it wants to get the support of NPC, this cute administration is trying (to use Kris Aquino's term) to squash Danding's...well, below the belt?

* * *

NPC is identified with Danding, as I said, and everybody in the party believes that he and Gloriaetta already had an agreement on many issues, perhaps even San Miguel.

In the stock market, however, both local and foreign investors fear that San Miguel is the takeover target of this cute administration.

While PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac battles an illness, her boys make noises in media about the government plan to take over San Miguel.

One of them, a certain Ruben Carranza, even knows the takeover date, which is February 2004, or only three months before the elections. Hmm.

* * *

STILL, the Gloriaetta camp must be convinced that Danding is not going to run, particularly not against Gloriaetta.

Or else they will not try to court NPC. Even if this cute administration does little about the economy, and everything else, for that matter, it does a lot in politics.

I mean, this cute administration knows its politics. It's not good politics to waste precious time in courting a party which you know damn well has a ready presidential bet.

Precisely, if the Gloriaetta camp, which is not necessarily the Lakas party, wants NPC to support their boss, they must believe that Danding is not running.

If he is not running, how come this cute administration hits Danding like he is the enemy, and it's not Sen. Panfilo Lacson or former Sen. Raul Roco?

* * *

IN the stock market, their answers are rather simple. It's possible that Gloriaetta is not really in control, particularly when it comes to her own appointees. Or the government takeover of San Miguel has little to do with Danding's plan for 2004, if at all.

You see, San Miguel is only the most aggressive investor in the country today. It continues to look for businesses to acquire. It only has some P50 billion for shopping money. CASH. Cold cash! Put it under government control, and what do you get?

It's like what the mayor of Parañaque (where you can't get from the faucet even just a drip, *buti pa si* Mayor Joey Tul...*este*, Marquez *pala*) got when he started going out with Kris. Jackpot, what else?

* * *

JUST a couple of days from now, the Philippine skies will be opened to US airlines—for all of them, mind you.

The "open skies" air agreement between the Philippine and the US governments takes effect this Oct. 1 finally.

I'm sure that the US government does not need the agreement to take effect to land an airplane in Manila for the state visit of Pareng Dubious, *este*, Dubya.

* * *

YOU see, the reason behind the agreement, at least from the US side, is just business. It is money. Those US airlines may now tap our huge market of more than 8 million OFWs.

Starting this Wednesday, based on the air agreement, any US airline can fly to and from any point in our country.

Any US airline, which means that all of them are actually entitled to it, may then fly the OFWs to any other country, not just the United States.

In other words, thanks to the lopsided agreement, US airlines are treated here just like any Filipino airline.

Now the problem is, since we gave such rights to US airlines, I don't know if we can stop other countries from demanding the same from us.

* * *

IT is a lopsided agreement which is heavily tilted in favor of the United States, because all US airlines may fly into and out of anywhere in the Philippines whenever they want to, without any limit on the number of flights.

In return, as a gesture of true friendship as equals, the US government simply restricts our local airlines to nine gateways in that country. Thanks a lot.

Moreover, because the US government is fair in its dealings with equals, it allows Filipino airlines to carry passengers from the US to only five countries.

Our government was so touched by the US government gesture of friendship, our government allowed all US airlines to carry passengers from the Philippines to any of the hundreds of countries in the world. Fair enough!

* * *

ALRIGHT, it is clear that the US aviation industry is far more developed than that of ours. For how can they not develop into giants?

They enjoy government subsidies, for one, amounting to billions of dollars, and government guarantee on hundreds of billions of dollars of loans.

Thus, the US airlines have more airplanes, and therefore, they need more flights to make those airplanes make a lot of money from... well, our OFWs.

On top of it all, nobody will be surprised if this cute administration agrees to give more air rights to US airlines, when Pareng Dubio...*este*, Dubya comes here soon.

* * *

WASHINGTON has been nagging this cute administration to declare Clark as an "open skies" airport. It is also business.

Such a declaration will only free a US airline from a legal bind. It is none other than the US cargo carrier UPS, which operates in Clark.

UPS wants to do cargo business between the Philippines and—again—any other country other than the United States.

It turns out that even its present operation in Clark is against the Constitution, because it is not even a Filipino company. Still, UPS wants more local business.

BSP governor . . .

From page B1

Federal Reserve Board Chair Alan Greenspan was given by the same magazine the lowest mark of "D" among 30 monetary regulators around the world in this year's ratings.

"I'm happy to be chosen again despite the unfavorable developments in the country and the suspension (order) of the Court of Appeals," the BSP chief said.

The Global Finance citation came while the peso remained volatile, political uncertainties kept putting pressure on interest rates, and Buenaventura' relationship with Malacañang seemed resting on shaky ground.

Of the nine grade "A" central bankers in Global Finance's list, only the BSP chief and Australia's Ian Macfarlane kept their valedictorian status from 2002 when only four monetary regulators made the grade.

The other valedictorians this year were the central bankers of Norway, Poland, India, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and South Africa. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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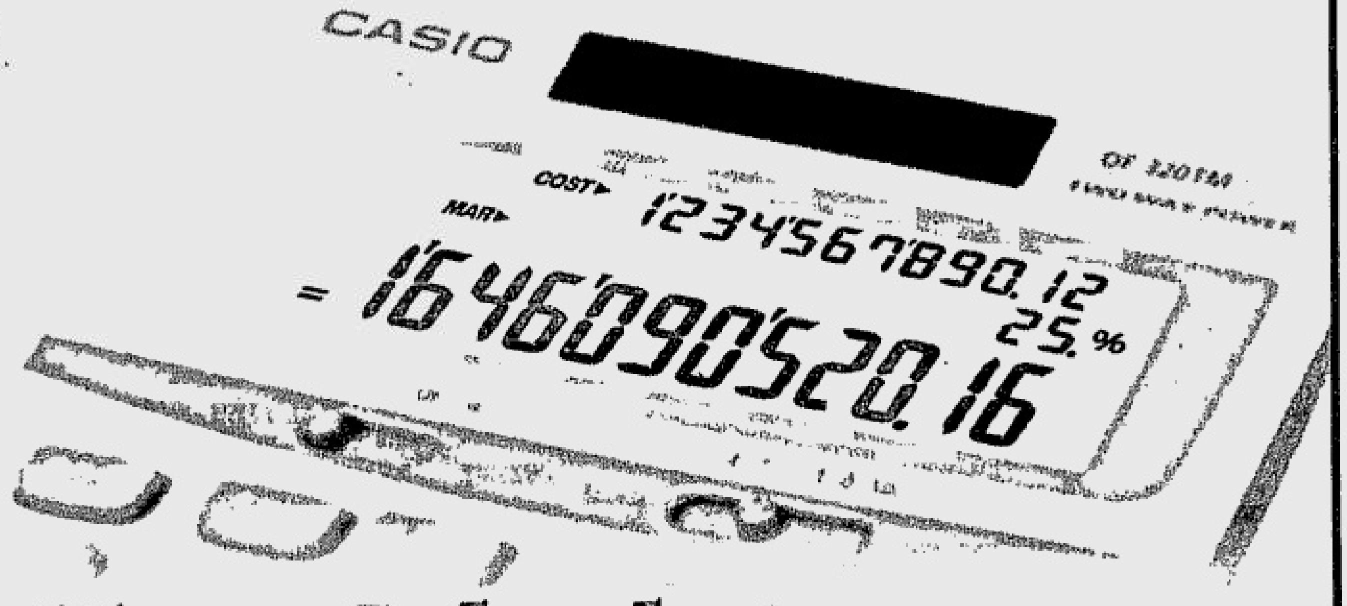

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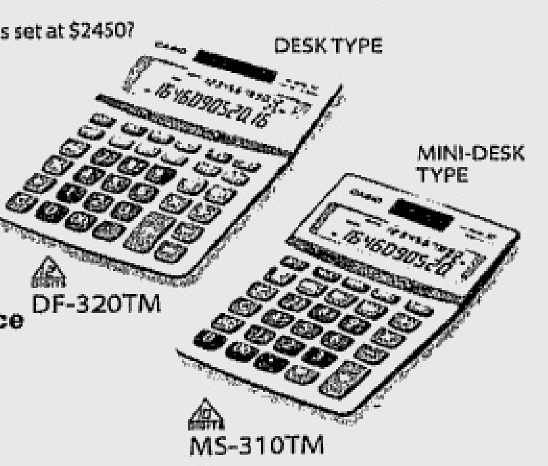

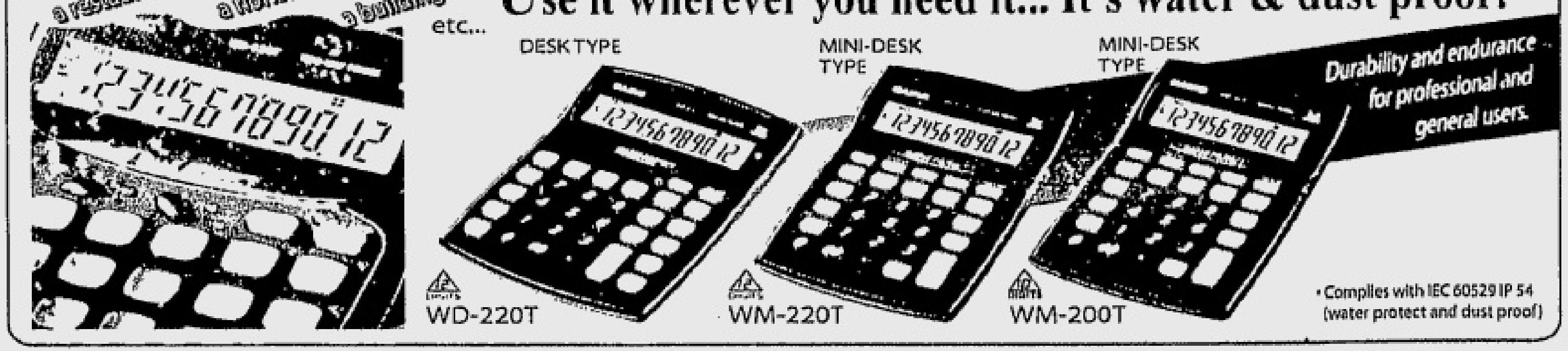

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Nestlé's breakaway

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NESTLÉ has decided to switch its P1.4-billion-a-year advertising budget in favor of the Filipino breakaway group from the French-controlled PublicisAMA.

The Swiss food giant has already given formal notice of the transfer of the bread-and-butter account "effective immediately" to the newly revived Advertising and Marketing Associates, with no less than new Nestlé president/CEO Salvador Pigem approving the transfer.

The news was received Friday to thunderous cheers and spontaneous partying by the mutinous Filipinos. "It was like Christmas and New Year's Eve combined," said an eyewitness.

Along with the creative account, Nestlé Philippines also transferred the media-buying services to AMA's sister agency, Optimum Media, whose new president, August Benitez, was the president of the Publicis-controlled Zenith Optimedia until the mass departure.

An AMA veteran, Lulu dela Peña, has been designated managing partner for the revived Advertising and Marketing Associates.

The Advertising and Marketing Associates actually represented AMA in PublicisAMA, the triple venture forged in 1999 by the French multinational agency, Publicis, with AMA and another Filipino agency, Basic.

But after the death of Basic CEO Antonio Mercado, the AMA executives discovered that the French agency actually controlled 66 percent of the triple alliance, instead of the initial belief that it was a Filipino-led coalition. This, plus a host of operational issues with the Singaporean office of Publicis, eventually led to a mass resignation of Filipino executives by mid-month.

Of the AMA originals, only chair/president Joselito de Joya, chief financial officer Lino Marable and their immediate staff have been left to preside over PublicisAMA until the formal de-merger.

The revived AMA is temporarily housed at the Meralco compound in Ortigas--Meralco also being another client of PublicisAMA--but will most likely transfer to the Phinma building in Rockwell, which is next door to the Nestle corporate offices.

$349 to West Coast

IT'S back.

From Oct. 1 to Dec. 15, Northwest Airlines is again offering a $349 + 25,000-miles fare to Honululu and the West Coast, and a $449 + 25,000 miles to the East Coast, to Philippine-based frequent fliers of the US carrier.

And for business class passage, the cash + miles fare comes up to a bargain $749 to Honolulu, Seattle, and Los Angeles ($899 for New York, Chicago, Boston, Washington DC, and Toronto), plus 35,000 miles.

Like many promos, there are a number of restrictions attached. Here are some of them: Ticket must be purchased no later than Oct. 25, with departure out of Manila booked no later than Dec. 14. The return portion may be taken any day within 90 days of departure, except Dec. 5-23, when *balikbayans* fly back to the Philippines like homing pigeons.

No stopovers are allowed, and any flight/date change is subject to a rebook-

COCKTALES/ B6

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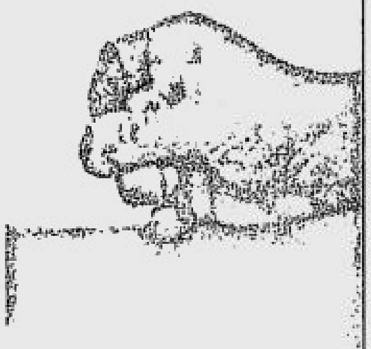

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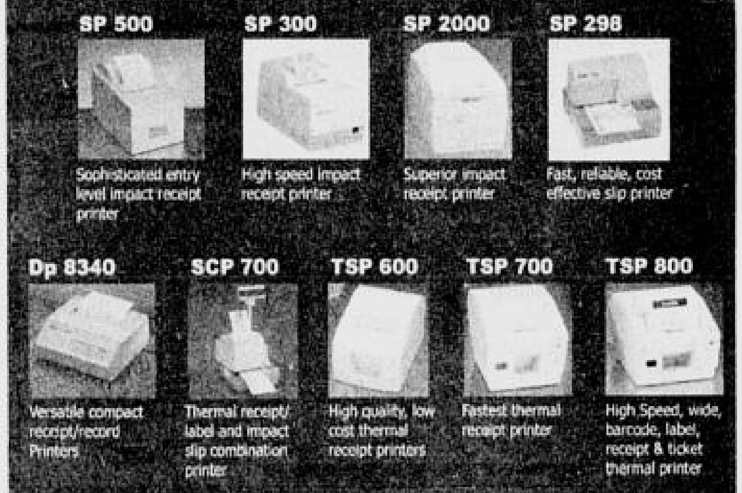

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BEING BEAUTIFUL IS NOTHING NEXT TO FEELING BEAUTIFUL

Globalization and the real enemy

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

APART from technology's role in facilitating globalization, the conscious decision of countries to open their borders to the flow of goods and services, capital, knowledge, and people is the other important reason globalization has been taking place. The 1980s and 1990s saw most countries liberalizing trade and investment policies to permit greater foreign competition. The guiding premise behind all this is that a country's producers must be internationally competitive if they are to be able to sell their products and services beyond their limited domestic markets. Sheltering domestic producers from foreign competition will only undermine their attainment of such competitiveness, as it permits them to charge higher prices from domestic consumers, and therefore operate at higher cost than foreign counterparts.

Compared to its Asian neighbors, the Philippines was relatively late in adopting this approach to building international competitiveness. It was only in the early 1990s when a determined attempt to streamline our import tariff structure was put in place, through Executive Order 470 issued by President Corazon Aquino. It was also under her presidency when the Foreign Investments Act of 1991 was enacted by Congress, significantly reducing restrictions to foreign investments. The Ramos administration followed these through with further reductions in tariffs and removal of remaining quantitative restrictions on imports. These reforms were embarked upon independently of (and way before) the country's ratification of the WTO agreement. Thus, as I have pointed out in an earlier column, the commitments we made in WTO were actually much less than what we had already done and decided to do as spelled out in the Medium Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) for 1993-1998. And we did these because we decided that this was the right thing to do for our own long-term welfare, not because of some foreign masters breathing down our necks.

It is these conscious moves of our government to remove quantitative restrictions (e.g. bans and quotas) on imports and to lower import tariffs that has met with much criticism as a cause of difficulties for many Filipinos. Manufacturing firms that were ill-equipped to meet competition from foreign rivals found themselves under strong pressure, with many forced to downscale operations, and some forced to close down and get out of the business entirely. These are either exporting firms who lost export buyers, or domestic-oriented firms who lost market share to low labor-cost competitors from countries like Vietnam and China. Statistics will show that thousands of jobs have indeed been lost in the manufacturing sector in the past years, especially after the 1997 Asian crisis.

Agricultural producers, particularly in the crops sector, likewise faced stronger pressure from cheaper imported competing products which drove prices down, sometimes below actual domestic costs of production. Agricultural exporters also found difficulty in competing in foreign export markets due to protective measures, both explicit and disguised, undertaken especially by rich countries with large domestic markets. By 1995, our country had been transformed from a net exporter to a net importer of agricultural products, an experience largely unique to us in this part of the world.

NO B6

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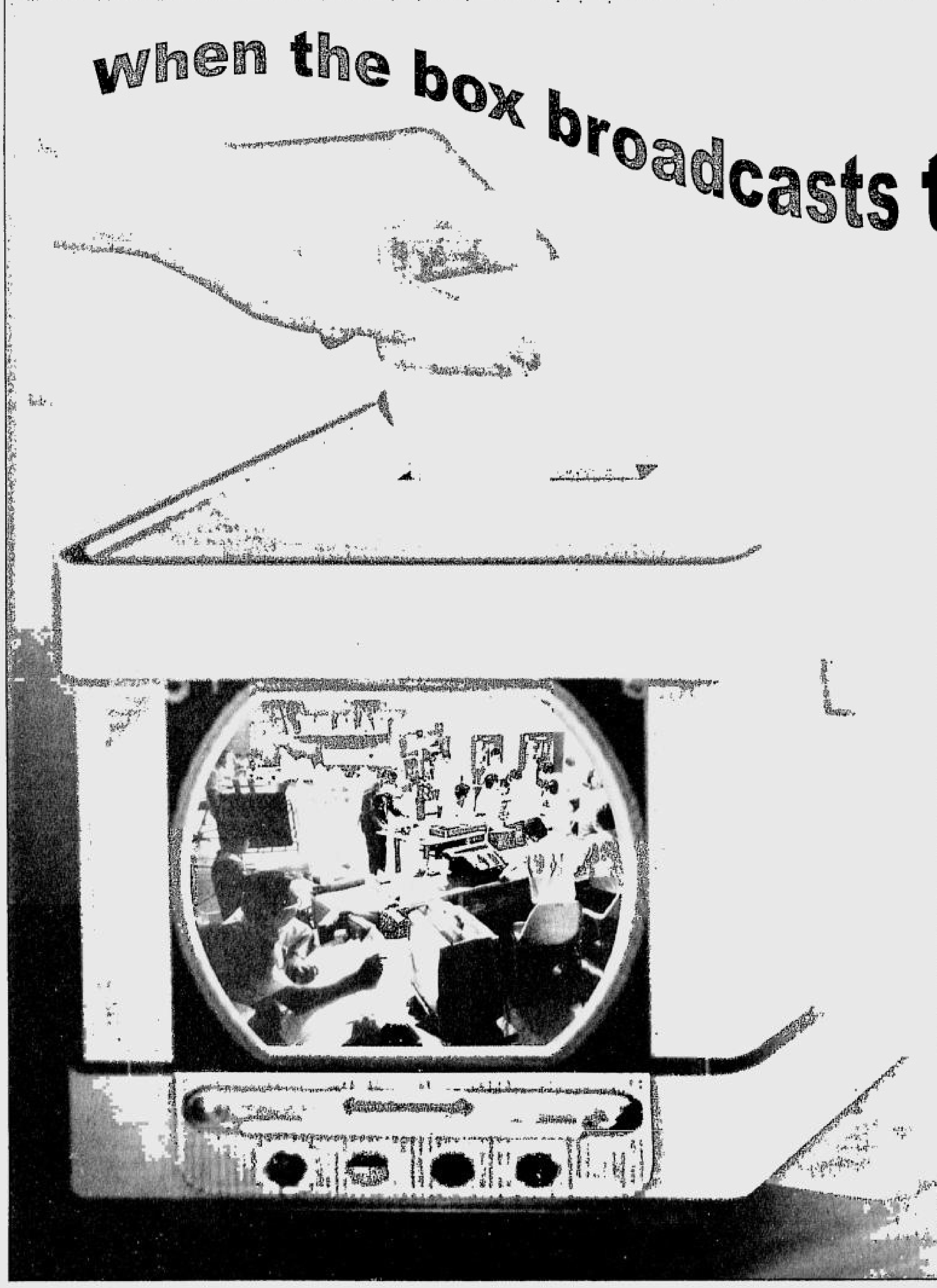

1967

FIRST MARATHON ELECTION TV COVERAGE

By supplying fast and accurate information, media has helped ensure the fair, honest and peaceful conduct of the democratic process in the country. ABS-CBN pioneered the tradition of extensive and ground-breaking election reportage when it broadcast Philippine TV's first marathon election coverage on 14 November 1967. *Halalan '67* aired poll results and updates for 36 hours straight.

Halalan '69 pioneered the broadcast technology of chroma keying which spruced up the presentation of election updates and reports. Meanwhile, on 8 November 1971, ABS-CBN embarked on a precinct-level nationwide counting of election results with 26,866 canvassers, highly sophisticated communications system, an array of 5 channels and 20 radio stations in *Bilang ng Bayan: Halalan '71*.

ABS-CBN was closed down for 14 years with the declaration of Martial Law in 1972, but the medium it spawned would play a vital role in its resurgence. The Filipino people's outrage were fanned seeing the rigged results of the 1986 Presidential elections unfold on national TV. Shortly after, millions took to the streets to stage the historic People Power EDSA Revolution of 1986 that toppled the Marcos Regime. ABS-CBN was re-launched later that year when the Lopezes re-claimed their stake on the network.

In mounting its succeeding election coverages, ABS-CBN continued to use every form of technology and communication imaginable to deliver live news updates and interaction from key points in the country. ABS-CBN also initiated the use of pre-election and exit polls alongside its reports of partial returns from as early as the precinct level.

To help in ensuring that the will of the people prevails and is respected remains ABS-CBN's commitment of service to the Filipinos.

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UNION GALVASTEEL CORPORATION *Celebrates* 40 Years

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Message

My warmest congratulations to **Union Galvasteel Corporation** on the occasion of its **40th Anniversary.**

Throughout its forty years of existence, Union Galvasteel Corporation has been an integral part of the history and economy of the country. Your ability to provide a stable and uninterrupted supply of steel products has given support to the Philippine industry in times of crises and normalcy. May you keep your unfailing dynamism in promoting a robust and vibrant economy.

Together, let us build the hallmarks of equitable and sustainable development as we stand united in forging a strong Philippine Republic.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY
Philippines

Message

Our warmest greetings to the management and staff of the **Union Galvasteel Corporation** as you celebrate your **40th Anniversary** on **September 28, 2003.**

It is heartening to note that Union Galvasteel Corporation, which traces its humble beginnings in 1963 as then a Division of Bacnotan Cement Industries, Inc. has continuously enhanced its competitiveness to emerge as one of the country's leading manufacturers of galvanized steel coils and sheets. The strategic expansion and modernization of the galvanizing lines and color coating line facilities in different parts of the country, constant improvement in product quality and aggressive marketing strategies were significant strides towards steady progress of the company. These laudable achievements have been grounded on the vision of its mother companies – the Philippine Investment Management, Inc. (PHINMA) and the Bacnotan Consolidated Industries, Inc. (BCCI) – about 40 years ago of becoming a major producer and supplier of construction materials in the country.

We take this opportunity to encourage you to constantly strive to meet the demands of the local and foreign markets in the face of stiff competition arising from intensified trade liberalization and borderless economies. The unfolding of these events should motivate us to draw on our competitive strengths in putting up a positive, vigilant and innovative front to respond to challenges, ultimately conquering the opportunities that abound.

We look forward to the continuing success of Union Galvasteel Corporation's operations in the country as a shining testimony to Filipino entrepreneurship and innovation.

Again, our sincere congratulations to the Union Galvasteel Corporation and best wishes on your anniversary.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
Secretary

UGC Operations in the Philippines

LEGEND:

- Head Office & Main Manufacturing Facilities
- Rollforming Plants
  - San Fernando
  - Davao City
  - Cebu City
  - Cagayan De Oro City
- Warehouses
  - Nueva Ecija
  - Iloilo City
  - Bacolod City
  - Tacloban City
- Sales Office
  - Tarlac,Tarlac

"*Life begins at 40*", so the saying goes.

Indeed, this could not be truer for Union Galvasteel Corporation as it celebrates its 40th Anniversary.

Today, six years after the 1997 Asian financial crisis weakened regional economies and amidst a turbulent world, Union Galvasteel Corporation looks to the future with renewed vigor and optimism.

Others may wonder how the company could remain optimistic in a period of uncertainties in the political and economic environment. But such a stance is a reflection of how the company, after successfully weathering storms that have come its way, has evolved to become what it is today.

COMPANY PROFILE

Union Galvasteel Corporation is one of the leading galvanizing and pre-painted sheets and coil manufacturer in the Philippines. It started as the Union Steel Plant Division of Bacnotan Cement Industries, Inc. (Bacnotan), a pioneer in the Philippine cement industry, with the establishment of a galvanizing plant in San Fernando, La Union to manufacture galvanized steel sheets for construction. The plant commenced operations on September 28, 1963 and was formally inaugurated with no less than His Excellency President Diosdado Macapagal and First Lady Eva Macapagal as guests of honor during the ceremonies.

The Division was subsequently spun off in 1993 as a separate business unit and incorporated as Bacnotan Steel Corporation. In June 2000, the company was renamed Union Galvasteel Corporation, a name that identifies its core business and brings UNION GALVASTEEL as a leading brand of galvanized and pre-painted steel products closer to the market.

Today, Union Galvasteel Corporation operates a modern continuous galvanizing line and color coating line in Calamba, Laguna, rollforming plants in La Union, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro. It has also warehouses in Iloilo, Bacolod, Tacloban and Nueva Ecija to complement its sales offices strategically located nationwide.

MISSION AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

As a professionally managed company under the Philippine Investment Management, Inc. (PHINMA), Union Galvasteel Corporation pursues its mission of manufacturing excellence and customer satisfaction by running its business according to highest ethical standards, good corporate governance while at the same time responsive to the interests of its stakeholders – the consumer, stockholders, its employees and the public in general.

The company's manufacturing facilities are environment friendly operations and are continuously improved to keep up with environmental standards. In line with the company's policy to produce and market products and provide services that consistently meet international standards and ensure total customer satisfaction, Union Galvasteel Corporation was the first in the Philippine galvanizing industry to receive an ISO 9002 Certification for Quality Management System Standards, the globally accepted seal in manufacturing.

Its commitment to total customer satisfaction is its basic Quality Policy. Thus, while product quality is important for attracting customers, the company believes that efficient service is the key to retaining them. It is in this area where it has a comparative advantage and effectively different from the rest of the field – customer service being a core value in all levels of the organization.

Beyond managing the business well, the company likewise, as an expression of its genuine concern towards society, undertakes meaningful and responsive, socially-oriented community development projects, anchored on the basic values of self-reliance and committing resources thereof.

Over the past several years, the company has taken cognizance of the value of education as a measure for poverty alleviation and improving the quality of life of the Filipino. As such, it has adopted education as a centerpiece of its community development projects. Along this line, it has forged strategic partnerships with academic institutions and NGOs for student-in-plant training and trade skills development.

The company has a tie-up with Dualtech Center Canlubang for students enrolled in electro-pneumatics and hydraulics. It also partnered with the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Iligan Institute of Technology, Batangas State University, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University and Letran College Calamba, for an expanded student in-plant training program. Students, particularly those entrolled in engineering courses, experience hands-on work in the company's manufacturing facilities located in Calamba, Laguna; San Fernando, La Union; and Davao City.

The late President Diosdado Macapagal and First Lady Eva Macapagal cutting the ribbon during the inauguration of the San Fernando, La Union plant.

President Diosdado Macapagal with company officials touring the newly inaugurated plant offices.

The company has been regularly supplying the roofing materials for school buildings under the Third Educational and Elementary Project (TEEP) of the Department of Education in Regions VIII and XII. Similarly, in response to the perennial problem of insufficient school facilities, notably classroom desks, in public elementary schools and, in cooperation with the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and the President Corazon C. Aquino School Desk Project, Union Galvasteel Corporation, marking its 40 years in business, committed to provide a sizeable number of school desks for selected schools throughout the Philippines.

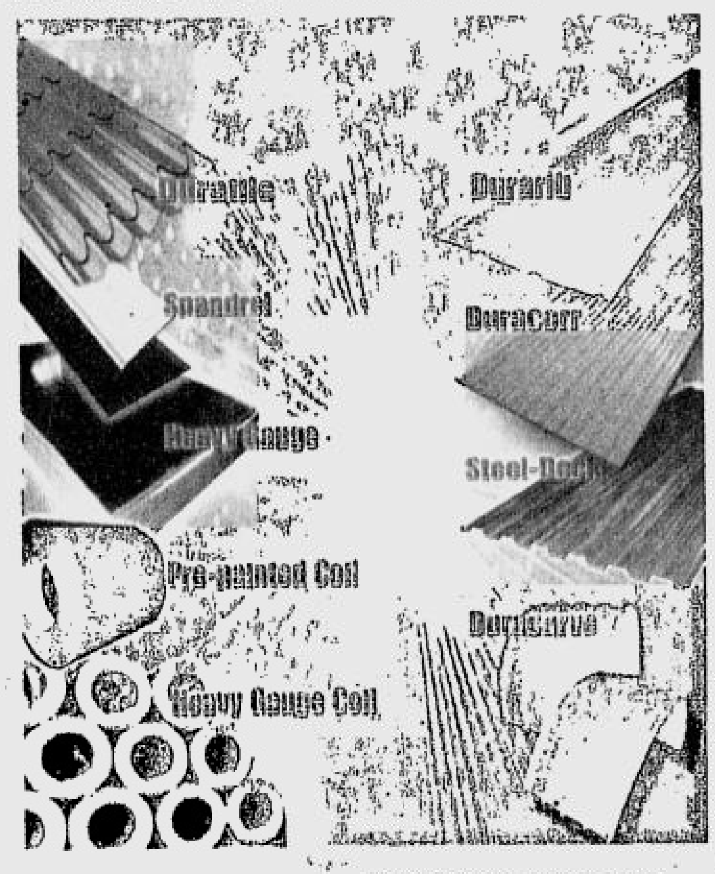
Another contribution in the education sector is in the area of scholarships. Considering that education is a heavy financial burden for an average factory worker or a marginal farmer, the company recently established a scholarship grant in a state university in La Union for a college education in engineering or other technical courses for deserving high school graduates who belong to economically-disadvantaged families in the province.

LOOKING BEYOND

On its 40th Anniversary, Union Galvasteel Corporation beams with pride with its contribution towards nation building through the millions of shelter and the families it has provided with quality building materials and services.

As it starts another decade, the company renews its steadfast commitment and mission to pursue manufacturing excellence and serve the needs of the Filipino and the country ●

UGC Product Lines



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BCDA plans sale of more prime lots

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED Bases Conversion Development Authority plans to bid out four more pieces of prime property with a combined size of at least 18.75 hectares as part of its privatization program, INQUIRER sources said on Friday.

This developed as the BCDA aimed to maximize the revenues it could generate from its landbank, focusing on big, high-yielding property and support facilities in Fort Bonifacio and Villamor Air Base.

Sources privy to the program said the BCDA hoped to dispose as much of the property as possible this year, the biggest of which is an 8-ha lot in Fort Bonifacio's northern central business district (CBD).

The sources said that while joint venture partner Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., now controlled by the Ayala and Campos group, owned most property in the northern CBD, it still had remaining landbank on the eastern side.

Another item on the block is the 6.75-ha Villamor driving range, a property which borders the South Luzon Expressway before the Nichols Interchange.

Based on the BCDA's website, the property is envisioned to be the site of a medium-rise, high-end residential development with sports and leisure facilities.

The BCDA said it would welcome any proposal on outright sale, 25-year lease with renewable provision, or joint-venture development.

The third piece of item to be privatized is a five-hectare property in Camp Bago Bantay, Sto. Cristo, Quezon City between SM City annex and Mindanao avenue.

Another item to be offered to investors is the Bonifacio South lot, adjacent to Lot-B, which is being developed by Ayala Land Inc.

ALI bagged the development rights to the adjacent 8.5-ha Lot-B property, which it would devote to new residential developments catering to the middle and high-end income markets. It is likewise developing the nearby retail hub Market! Market! through a separate development contract awarded by the BCDA.

The BCDA was supposed to sell a 64-ha property in Fort Bonifacio that was earlier excluded from the original joint-venture agreement with FBDC due to the government's failure to evict squatters.

But instead, 59 hectares of the controversial property was donated by Malacañang to the occupants.

In any disposal of its assets, the source explained that the BCDA would still use net present value for joint-venture contracts and fair market value for outright sale.

Slight gains seen . . .

From page B1

Friday, 0.44 percent lower than a week ago.

Eric Claudio, a trader at Unicapital Securities, said the market would likely trade on a positive note this week.

"If you look at the daily trading, you'll notice that the Phisix tends to close above lows, meaning there are some buying pressures," Claudio said.

"This means that there are buyers willing to wait and buy at the end of the day. For me, that's a bullish trend," he said.

However, Claudio said he did not expect the market to suddenly stage a strong rally because there was no sense of urgency in intraday buying.

Claudio said he expected the market to rebound sharply very soon as the global economic environment was turning favorable.

"If the US economy stabilizes, it will be a good opportunity for fund managers to buy into emerging markets," Claudio said.

He also said that the peso-dollar foreign exchange rate, despite being weighed down by the import season, was becoming relatively less volatile. *Doris C. Dumlao*

No free lunch . . .

From page B4

Is globalization indeed the cause of all these problems? To a large extent, yes. But the problem is not in globalization per se, but in the way countries have been managing their own globalization process—including through moves rather contrary to it. The double standards by which the rich countries preach globalization were what caused the breakdown in Cancun. The problem is that globalization is not happening under fair rules on a level playing field. Rich countries are pouring massive amounts of support to their farmers, making it possible for them to sell their products at ridiculously cheap prices, thereby making it impossible for unsubsidized farmers in poorer countries to compete fairly. The enemy here is not globalization itself. The enemy is the stubborn rich country governments who for political reasons insist on supporting a minority segment of their populations at the wider expense of their own general taxpayers, apart from farmers in poorer countries.

A closer look at our own internal problems would also help identify the real enemy within. A look into the statistics will quickly show that we turned into being a net agricultural importer in the 1990s primarily because of substantial increases in importation of rice. Meanwhile, agricultural exports like fruits, and livestock and poultry products actually did quite well, and continued to grow robustly through the years. And this was in spite of substantial increases in meat and poultry imports, including and especially those that were smuggled in. In the case of manufacturing, I find that much of the outcry against foreign competition is ultimately directed at smuggled competing products, not those that have come in legitimately and paid appropriate duties.

It would appear, then, that the real enemies in this case include those in government who failed to provide our rice industry the same kind of productivity increases attained by our neighbors, through sheer negligence, incompetence or outright corruption. Our average rice yields are just one third to one-half of that attained by our rice-growing neighbors! There are also those who allegedly make rather tidy sums from the government-controlled importations of rice, making one wonder whether we have been importing more rice than necessary mainly to feed the pockets of certain parties who benefit from each rice import shipment made. The real enemies also include those unscrupulous businessmen who smuggle in large amounts of agricultural and manufactured goods and provide unfair competition to our domestic producers—and those in government who allow them to get away with it.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

ing fee of $75.

Northwest does not offer the business class upgrade to the San Francisco route, since, according to the grapevine, the carrier is still using a smaller DC-10 jet instead of the much bigger Boeing 747 that used to serve the Tokyo-San Francisco corridor prior to the 9/11 attacks.

Heard through the grapevine

AN auditing industry pillar is the subject of a sexual harassment complaint from a female spa attendant of Tagaytay Highlands.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Sept. 26, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	80,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	17.5	298,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	147,500
China Banking Corp.	670	670	670	670	50
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	69,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	29.5	29	29	3,169,600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	12.75	12.75	20,000
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18.75	19	113,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	29	29	29	29	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	22,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	860
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1215	1215	1210	1210	730
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Abs-Cbn Broadcasting Corp.	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	11,500
Diversified Fin. Network	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.68	0.68	990,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	695	690	695	9,090
Ipeople Inc.	0.98	1.06	0.98	1.06	550,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.049	800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.74	0.75	0.73	0.75	8,330,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	665	660	665	14,930
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	120,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	57,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	16.25	16.25	15.5	15.5	295,800
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.25	23.5	23.5	947,200
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	2	2	1,263,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	28,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	71,000
William,Gothong & Aboitiz	2	2	2	2	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	140,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	1,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	130,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	262,000
Union Cement Corp	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	7,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	29.5	30	228,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	18	18	17.5	17.5	2,739,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	1,020,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54.5	54	54.5	67,100
San Miguel Corp. B	62.5	63	62.5	63	19,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	727,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	105,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	2,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.68	0.7	0.67	0.67	17,550,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	50,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.3	0.3	510,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	51,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	255,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.11	0.105	0.11	210,000
House Of Investments Inc	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Ionics Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.7	1.7	502,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	2	2.02	2	2.02	860,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.96	0.96	0.94	0.94	1,250,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	17,700,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	370,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	160,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	720,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.34	0.34	1,610,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp (Pdr)	23.25	23.25	23	23	72,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
Philweb Corp - Warrants	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	71,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6,129,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.14	1.08	1.12	18,459,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	780,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	400,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	0.0775	700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	36,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	716,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	5,350,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	470,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
OIL					
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000

Gov't rejects higher . . .

From page B1

against a ceiling of P130 billion.

The fiscal failure last year pushed back the timetable of bringing down the deficit to zero to 2009 from the original schedule of 2006.

The proposal to increase the wage exemption of individual taxpayers need not be pushed had the plan of President Macapagal-Arroyo to shift to a gross modified method of income taxation from the current net system materialized.

Gross modified income taxation is beneficial to salaried workers as it would substantially bring down the tax rate on individuals. However, it would be disadvantageous to businesses.

The shift would have made Ms Macapagal more popular as the pending bill in Congress recommended the exemption of compensation-earners with a yearly salary of P75,000 or below from paying income tax. The maximum rate of 32 percent would be slapped on those earning P650,000 and above annually.

The same bill proposed a reduction in the income tax for corporations, solely-owned businesses and professionals to 15 percent but without any room for deductions on costs of businesses like rental, equipment and representation.

Businesses are currently asked to pay a 32-percent corporate income tax on net earnings or after legitimate costs of business are deducted.

CURRENCIES

September 28, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869641	1.000000	55.140000
Japan	Yen	0.007762	0.008926	0.492200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.444734	1.661300	91.604100
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112118	0.128924	7.108900
Switzerland	Franc	0.647633	0.744713	41.063500
Canada	Dollar	0.644800	0.741455	40.883800
Singapore	Dollar	0.501523	0.576701	31.799300
Australia	Dollar	0.590990	0.679579	37.472000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.306801	2.652590	146.263800
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231898	0.266660	14.703600
Brunei	Dollar	0.500081	0.575043	31.707900
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000103	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.021714	0.024969	1.376800
UAE	Dirham	0.236785	0.272279	15.013500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149900	63.405500
Argentina	Peso	0.300914	0.346021	19.079600
Brazil	REAL	0.297211	0.341763	18.844800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134620	0.154799	8.535600
India	Rupee	0.018967	0.021810	1.202600
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228883	0.263193	14.512500
Mexico	New Peso	0.079967	0.091954	5.070300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516138	0.593507	32.726000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015124	0.017391	0.958900
South Africa	Rand	0.123177	0.141641	7.810100
Korea	Won	0.000756	0.000869	0.047900
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025867	0.029744	1.640100

INTEREST RATES

September 26, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 26-Sep-03	MART1 25-Sep-03
1 Month	6.2429	6.2875
3 Months	6.2339	6.2786
6 Months	7.0982	7.1589
1 Year	8.1143	8.1321
2 Years	9.1473	9.1408
3 Years	9.7232	9.6679
4 Years	10.1658	10.1652
5 Years	10.5183	10.5583
7 Years	11.19	11.19
10 Years	11.5804	11.5875
20 Years	12.0408	12.0333
25 Years	12.33	12.3067

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,200,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	1,200,000	1,300,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	65,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	45,000	70,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	270,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	200,000
Club Filipino	130,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"		80,000
Forest Hills "A"		180,000
Forest Hills "B"	180,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	275,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	240,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	10,500,000
Manila Polo	2,250,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club		450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	35,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	170,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	175,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	60,000	80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "C"		180,000
Spa & Lodge	520,000	700,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,000,000	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,100,000

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CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB		450K
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	150K	
CLUB FILIPINO		140K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"		300K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"		350K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	90K	
FONTANA "D"	50K	
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	10.3M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)		10.8M
MANILA POLO CLUB		2.2M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	460K	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"		530K
MIMOSA C2		250K
METRO CLUB "A"	110K	
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB		30K
PUNTA FUEGO	550K	400K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200K	
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	please call	
SPLENDIDO	300K	
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1.3M	
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	850K	700K
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS		680K
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	270K	260K
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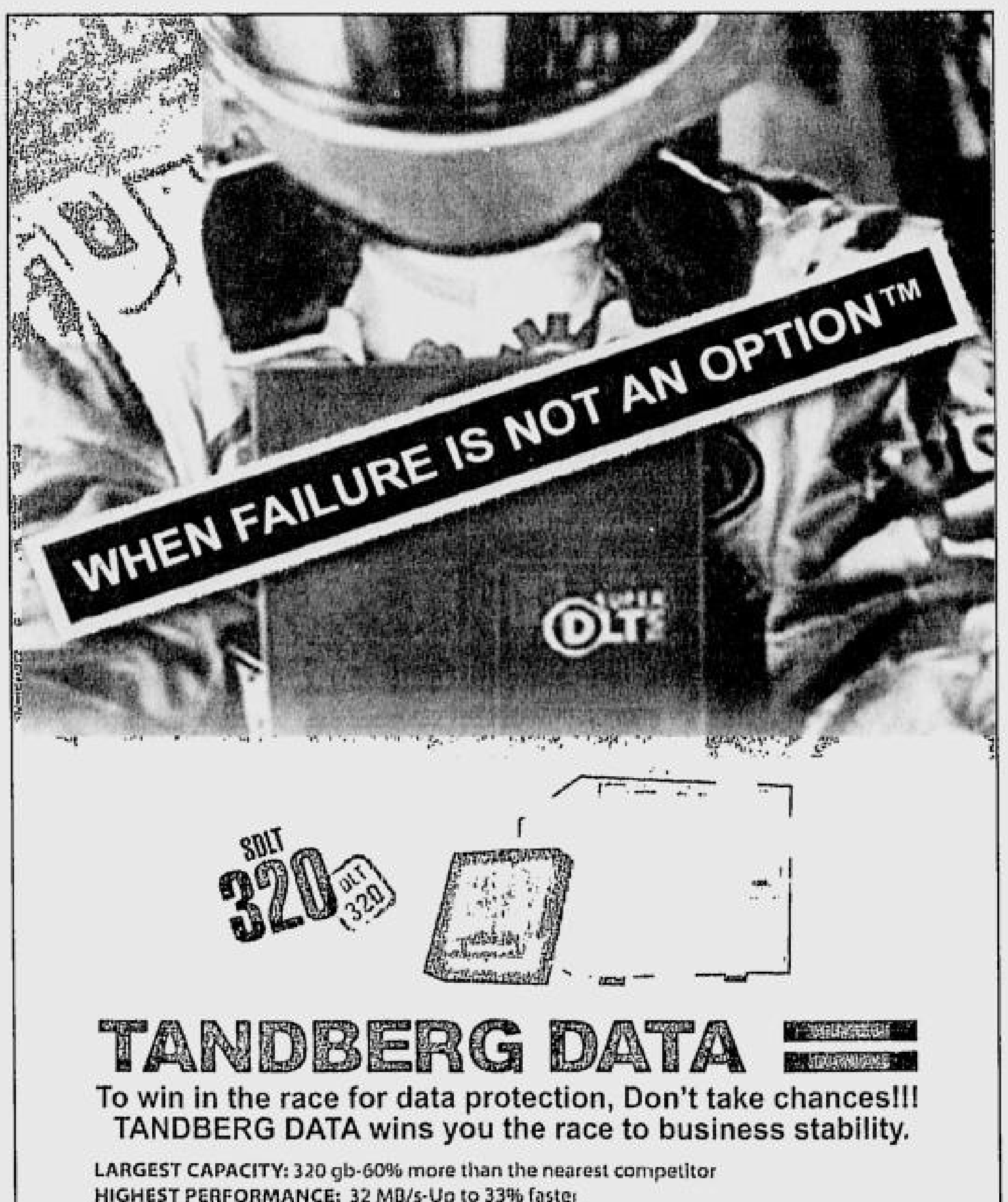

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Perks for CBU exports OKd

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance and the Board of Investments have finally approved a package of incentives for automotive exports, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II said.

Roxas said the final version of the automotive export incentives had already been submitted to Malacañang for approval.

"We (BOI and DOF) have already agreed on the amount (of export incentives). What is necessary now is an executive order, which is already being prepared and is expected to be signed shortly," Roxas told reporters.

The BOI and the DOF decided to grant car manufacturers $400 in incentive for every 10,000 units of vehicles exported. Roxas said the incentive would come in the form of tariff discounts on the importation of raw materials.

The incentive package is expected to help Ford Motor Co. Philippines achieve its goal of increasing its CBU exports to 100,000 units a year from the current 10,000 units, and make the country the second biggest car exporter in the region next to Thailand.

With the incentives, the government is hoping that other car assemblers would eventually engage in the export of CBUs. Ford, which has long requested for the incentives to support its export initiative, is currently the country's sole exporter of CBUs.

Roxas said the BOI and the DOF had already coordinated with the Tariff Commission for the reduction of import tariffs on eligible car manufacturers. Roxas also explained that car manufacturers could only avail themselves of the government incentives after they have actually exported CBUs.

The granting of the export incentives is one of the components of the government's Motor Development Program (MVDP), which is intended to enhance the revenue performance of the local automotive industry through various support programs.

The other components of the MVDP, contained in EO No. 156, are as follow: realignment of the auto excise tax; ban on the importation of used vehicles; restructuring of tariff rates, and the extension of the Asean Industrial Cooperation scheme (Aico).

Aside from the incentives, the government had also realigned the automotive excise tax system.

Roxas earlier said the government aimed to fulfill all the components of the MVDP before the end of the year.

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QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

FOR four years now, the non-life insurance industry has worked for the reversal of a circular of the Bureau of Internal Revenue on the documentary stamp tax. How the Department of Finance (DOF, which rules over the BIR, has treated the non-life industry on this problem is worth telling.

If you look at the invoice on your fire insurance policy, one of the four taxes you pay is the documentary stamp tax (DST). Fifty years ago, hardly anybody noticed the tax, as it was only one and a half percent of the premium. Marcos raised it to three and three-fourths, Tita Cory to seven and a half, then, finally, FVR to its present level of twelve and a half.

For years, the insurance companies paid the DST under rules set by the BIR itself. After collecting the tax (and the premium, of course), the company remitted the tax to the BIR. If the insured changed his mind about buying the policy, the company cancelled the policy and the company for remittance collected no DST.

Then, in 15 June 1999, the BIR changed the rules. Since then, once a policy was issued, the DST was due and payable even if the policy was cancelled later for non-payment of premium.

The non-life insurance associations have submitted various position papers to the BIR and the finance department. Meetings have been held. But it has been like writing on water and talking to a brick wall.

Then, last April 28, yet another position paper was submitted, this time to an undersecretary who, in a previous meeting, had asked for it. ISAP Inc., Philippine General Insurers Association, Insurance Brokers Association and the General Agents Association jointly prepared the position paper.

At one time or another over the years, the BIR has told the non-life industry that the DST was a tax on the document, a tax on the transaction, an excise or a privilege tax. The DST cannot be all of these taxes. It has to be one or the other. Which is it really?

The DST cannot be a tax on the document. If it were, then it should be a flat, fixed tax such as the DST on a bank check. Regardless of the amount on a check, the DST remains the same. But the DST on a non-life insurance policy is based on the premium. A one-page marine insurance policy with a premium of P1,000,000 is charged a DST of P125,000, while a six-page fire insurance policy with a premium of P10,000 is charged a DST of P1,250. Clearly, the DST is not a tax on the document.

The DST cannot also be a privilege tax. To protect your home with fire insurance stems from your basic right as a property owner. Why should the government tax you for exercising that basic right? Besides, a privilege, by definition, can be withdrawn. How can your basic right to protect yourself be withdrawn?

The DST cannot also be an excise tax. Twenty-nine sections of Title VII of the Tax Code cover the DST. The excise tax—which is on goods, and not services like insurance—is in another title. One title cannot be mixed with another.

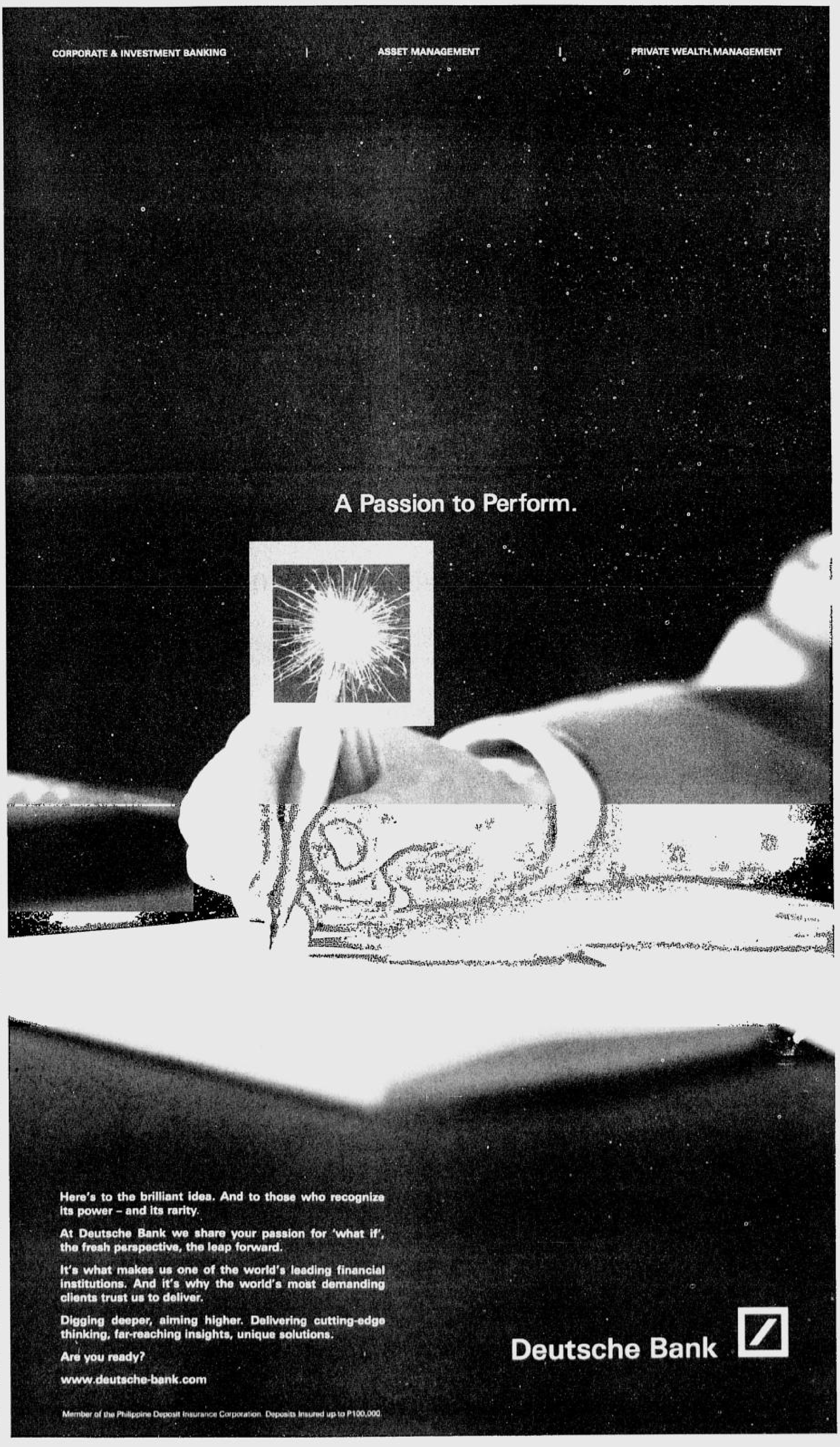
The joint position paper claims that the DST is a transaction or sales tax. This is why it is computed as a percentage of the purchase price or premium. But the tax code says the DST "shall be levied and paid for, in respect of the transaction so had and accomplished." Now comes the big question: In non-life insurance, when do you have a transaction, or when is a transaction accomplished? The answer must be sought, not in the tax code, but in the insurance code.

The insurance code says that no non-life insurance policy is valid unless and until the premium is paid. This is the so-called cash and carry rule. In other words, so long as the premium remains unpaid, there is no sale, no transaction and the policy is not worth the paper it is printed on. As a result, there should not be any documentary stamp tax due and payable to the BIR.

In effect, the current BIR circular is taxation without congressional legislation.

This is the case presented in the joint position paper. But the undersecretary has sat on the position paper for four months. Attempts to set a meeting have failed.

Maybe the non-life insurance industry should pull an Oakwood, lay siege and storm the finance department.



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RP seeks cut in cost of remitting OFW earnings

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINE government will seek the help of US President George W. Bush in lowering the fees imposed by the US government on Filipino banks and remittance centers.

This is aimed at reducing the cost of remitting to the Philippines the earnings of Filipinos working in the US. The move is expected to improve the flow of money from the US to the country.

This measure is among the issues that will be tackled during President Bush's eight-hour visit to the country on Oct. 18.

A memorandum of intent to improve and strengthen Filipino remittances from the US was signed by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and US Treasury Undersecretary John Taylor during the state visit of President Macapagal Arroyo to the US last May.

Government officials are hoping that Bush could help bring down the remittance fees imposed on Filipinos in the US, which ranged from $5 to $30 per transaction, by waiving costly licensing and application fees charged on Philippine banks and remittance centers that wanted to operate in the US.

The US government, according to sources, could also ask US correspondent banks to reduce their service fees for the accounts of Philippine banks handling remittances.

Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said the government wanted to achieve two things: a substantial cut in the cost of OFW remittances and to have more remittance players in the US.

There are close to 2 million Filipinos in the United States who regularly send dollars to their families and relatives in the Philippines. A good number of Filipinos in the US are in California where the cost of operating a remittance business is exorbitant.

Of the $7 billion wired by OFWs last year, the bulk came from the US although the Middle East is also a major source.

Remittances are coursed through a US correspondent bank, a foreign bank or a courier.

For the first two options, OFWs must shoulder an out-of-pocket fee of about $5 per transaction, a service fee charged by a foreign correspondent bank on the deposit account of the receiving local branch, and a service fee charged by the receiving local bank on the deposit account of the beneficiary who gets the remittance. These service fees amount to $16 for a remittance worth $200.

Charges imposed by couriers are higher. For instance, a remittance amounting to $200 from the US would be charged between $22 and $27 although there are other couriers like LBC that charge a service fee of as low as $3 for remittances from countries like Hong Kong, Singapore and Middle East.

Shutdown of Caltex refinery worries business

By Michelle V. Remo

BUSINESSMEN have expressed concern over the decision of Caltex Philippines Inc. to mothball its refinery in Batangas, saying this could reinforce the negative perception on the country's capability to sustain business.

According to Ricardo Romulo, chair of the Makati Business Club, Caltex's move to convert its refinery into an import terminal was a "bad sign" because this could mean employment loss and dwindling confidence in the local economic environment.

He said the real reasons for Caltex's move had to be known to enable the country to determine what really were driving businesses away.

In the meantime, the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food president Alejandro Escano said the move of Caltex was a proof that the cost of doing business in the country had already become uncompetitive.

He said the high capitalization requirement to modernize company facilities in the country was a turn-off for businessmen. He added that the high cost of doing business, particularly labor and electricity costs, further dampened the business mood in the country.

Caltex said it decided to convert its refinery into an import terminal because modernizing its facilities to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act would cost a lot more than if the company merely resort to importation.

"If only companies, at the very start, already used high-quality facilities, then complying with the CAA would not be as costly as modernizing substandard facilities," he said. He opined that the inclination of some local firms to merely look at short-term financial benefits—as shown by their unwillingness to invest in quality facilities—is a liability to efforts to move the economy forward.

For his part, businessman Sergio Ortiz-Luis said the conversion of Caltex's refinery into a mere import terminal could have negative indications, but that the company's decision was not really a negative surprise because the pulling out of investments of multinational companies was just a normal occurrence in the country.

He added, however, that Caltex's move should not really dampen business mood because while some companies were reducing their investments in the Philippines, new ones were coming in. He said the entry of a number of call center firms could compensate for the exit of other companies from the Philippines.

"Some investors might be looking at (investing in) the Philippines with hesitation, but when we look at the total number (of firms pulling out and coming in the country), I think it is still positive," said Ortiz-Luis in an interview with reporters.

Caltex said it would invest P750 million to covert the 49-year-old Batangas refinery into an import terminal.

Nickel mining firms urged to go into processing

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources is encouraging nickel mining companies in the Philippines to invest in ore processing technologies to enable them to increase value-added in their products.

This is in view of a new DENR policy prohibiting the exportation of raw ore.

The DENR has blocked the proposed reopening last year of Manikani, a nickel mine that planned to export its ore production to Japan.

The ban on raw ore exports is expected to encourage the industry to go into ore processing, Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun said in an interview.

Gozun said the new policy also took into consideration the need to upgrade the local mining industry.

The DENR lauded a joint venture project by Sumitomo Metal Mining Company of Japan and Rio Tuba Mining of the Philippines to set a $100-million nickel extraction facility in Palawan. Construction of the said plant is on-track and commercial operation is scheduled to start in 2004.

The proposed Rio Tuba plant will extract nickel from laterite ore with a nickel grade of 1.2 percent to 2 percent.

The planned plant will have a capacity to produce about 10,000 tons of nickel and 550 tons of cobalt per year for 20 years. Rio Tuba currently exports its higher nickel grade ore deposits to Japan and Australia.

The country's estimated nickel ore output this year was placed at 819,000 dry metric tons, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

Fair competition good for market, says Ginebra

INDUSTRY leader Ginebra San Miguel Inc. has called on the local gin industry "to collaborate in a win-win approach to the cultivation of a booming gin market."

Gin patronage is biggest in the countryside since it is the preferred drink of Filipinos in the agricultural and rural-based industrial sectors, according to GSMI which holds about 92 percent of the gin market.

The win-win approach is to create sharp product distinction among the various gin brands, according to GSMI counsel Gilbert Reyes of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Offices.

By making gin products look very different from one another, market confusion could be prevented and consumers are protected, he said adding that this could also help industry players test the real strength of their brands.

GSMI made the statement in the wake of an apparent trend in the local gin industry where new entrants "tend to design and brand their products to very closely resemble the product brand and design of the market leader."

Reyes said the growing competition in the gin market would benefit the consumers since it would drive the industry to continually enhance its products and services.

PPA execs cleared on bid complaint

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) has cleared two top officials of the Philippine Ports Authority of alleged wrongdoing in the bidding for the construction of the Port of Puerto Princesa in Palawan.

The complaint was filed by losing bidder Melecio Go, owner of Sargasso Construction and Development Corp.

In a resolution, the PAGC dismissed the complaint "for lack of merit" as it cited the PPA's right to reject any bid that the agency found unresponsive to the requirements of the project under consideration.

Go alleged that his company should have been awarded the contract because it quoted the lowest price for the project. But the PAGC asserted that "the lowest bidder is not assured of automatically winning a bidding."

After a post-qualification as required by law, the PPA found out that SCDC did not meet several technical requirements for the project. "And based on bidding rules, we cannot accept SCDC's tender. We at PPA have always been strict about established bidding rules in port projects," said PPA general manager Alfonso Cusi who was named in the complaint together with PPA assistant general manager Medardo Melicor.

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10 technology projects lined up for funding

By Abigail L. Ho

TEN more government information and communications technology projects are being "seriously considered" for funding under the P4-billion e-government fund for the year.

These projects include the Health department's drug testing project, two projects from the Labor department involving a case management system for labor cases, a network of testing laboratories for online services, and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute's e-nutrition project.

Also included in the roster of projects are various ICT initiatives by the Civil Service Commission and the Bureau of Food and Drug as well as the e-library project of the Department of Science and Technology, University of the Philippines and the National Library.

Science and Technology undersecretary for ICT Fortunato Dela Peña said these projects were considered based on deliberations and evaluations conducted by the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC), the country's highest policy-making body for ICT.

"There's an ongoing evaluation of projects. This will go on up to Sept. 30. The projects will then be presented during the ITECC plenary meeting," Dela Peña said.

Aside from these 10 projects, the ITECC has already identified eight projects for funding.

These priority projects would benefit the Commission on Elections, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

Earlier in the year, part of the e-government fund was disbursed for the election modernization project of the Comelec and the information technology projects ofthe BIR and BOC.

Other projects that are given priority for funding are the "e-link" project of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration for the processing of documents of overseas Filipino workers, the national business registration project of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine government portal site of the National Computer Center, and the DOST's Jumpstarting Electronic Governance in the Local Government Units or e-LGU.

By next year, government ICT projects would receive a specific allocation in the national budget, Dela Peña said in an earlier interview.

This ICT fund will finance the ICT projects of various government agencies, particularly those that are "citizen-centric" and will affect more than one agency upon implementation.

₱2.7-B Panglao airport to rise

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TAGAYTAY CITY—To keep up with its booming ecotourism industry, the governor of Bohol on Wednesday disclosed that an airport facility capable of receiving local, regional and international flights is set to rise on the scenic island of Panglao in the province.

Bohol Gov. Francisco Aumentado said the construction of the P2.7-billion airport project would start early 2006. He added that the funds would come from a grant from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

"The people of Bohol are very happy and proud with this development. This is just a proof of the flourishing of ecotourism in our province. We know this would help our local economy a lot," Aumentado told the INQUIRER.

Aumentado was here as guest speaker to the 3rd National Ecotourism Congress held at the Tagaytay International Convention Center.

The 220-ha airport would be built complete with world-class facilities and could accommodate several airbuses and jumbo planes, Aumentado said.

Together with the world-renowned Chocolate Hills, the Panglao Island on the southern part of Bohol, is one of the most frequented ecotourism sites in the Visayas.

Even international environment groups cited the island, said to be the "Paradise Island of the South," for its pristine marine and wildlife sanctuaries.

Aumentado said he had already met with National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Romulo Neri to discuss the fast tracking and the approval of the budget by the Neda's Investment Coordination Council.

At present, only the Tagbilaran City airport services tourists coming to Bohol.

Farmers, importers end onion war

By Christine A. Gaylican

LOCAL onion farmers and importers have agreed to set aside their differences and end their bitter war that has rocked the P1.2-billion industry for months.

Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. disclosed that the Philippine Onion-Garlic Importers and Exporters Inc. and two farmers group represented by the National Onion Growers Cooperative Marketing Association Inc. and the Union of Growers And Traders or Nogrocoma and Ugat have agreed to work on a "win-win solution" to end the onion war.

Under the agreement, imported red onions would not be sold in the local market for 45 days or until Nov. 5 to give local growers enough time to sell their unsold inventory.

Onion importers also promised to buy one 25-kg bag of local onions for every bag they import to give the local onion industry a boost.

"Since the pact was signed Sept. 10, everything has been doing well so far, and we believe it will work effectively because the involved parties were transparent and each one treated the other with mutual," Lorenzo added.

Lorenzo said mediation efforts should be credited to the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Team and a composite DA group led by Benjamin Angeles, Pogei and the farmers' groups.

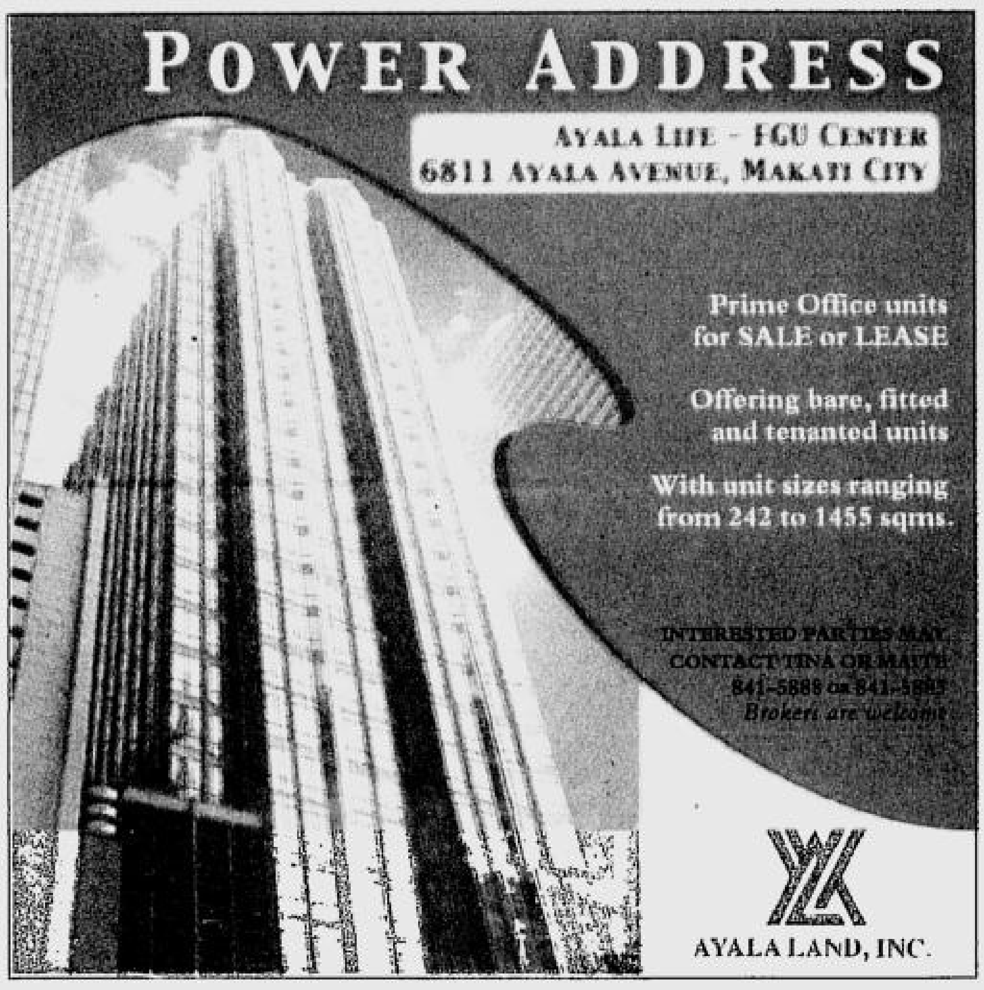
Local onion farmers and importers quarreled for months over the alleged dumping of imported red creole onions from China, causing local onion prices to fall.

Farmers claimed imports came at a time when local farmers had enough inventory to supply the domestic demand.

Industry figures indicate that as much as 8 million kg of red onions, or 6 percent of 2003 production of 120 million kg, had been allowed to enter the local market.

The country consumes about 126 million kg of onions a year.

While only half of the import shipment or about 4 million metric tons actually entered the local market, farm gate prices of red onion still plunged to P5 per kilo or at local production cost.



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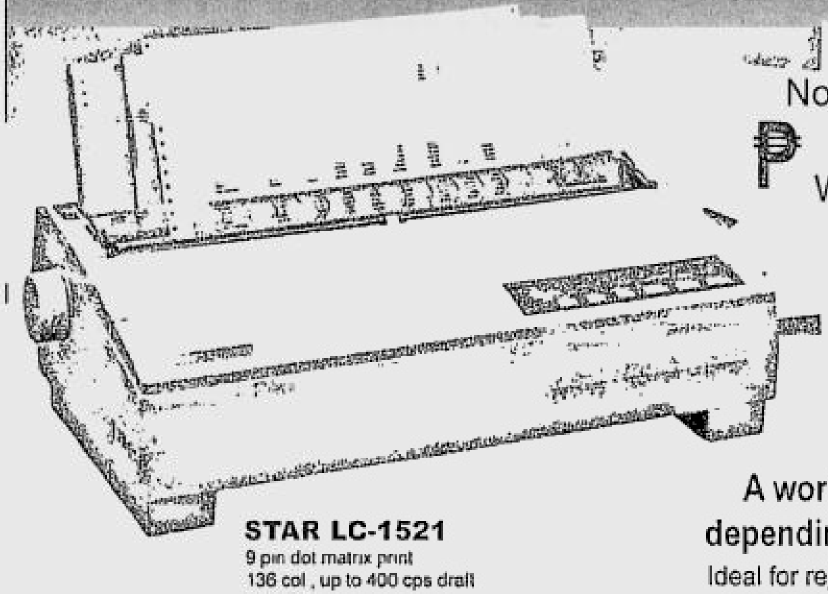

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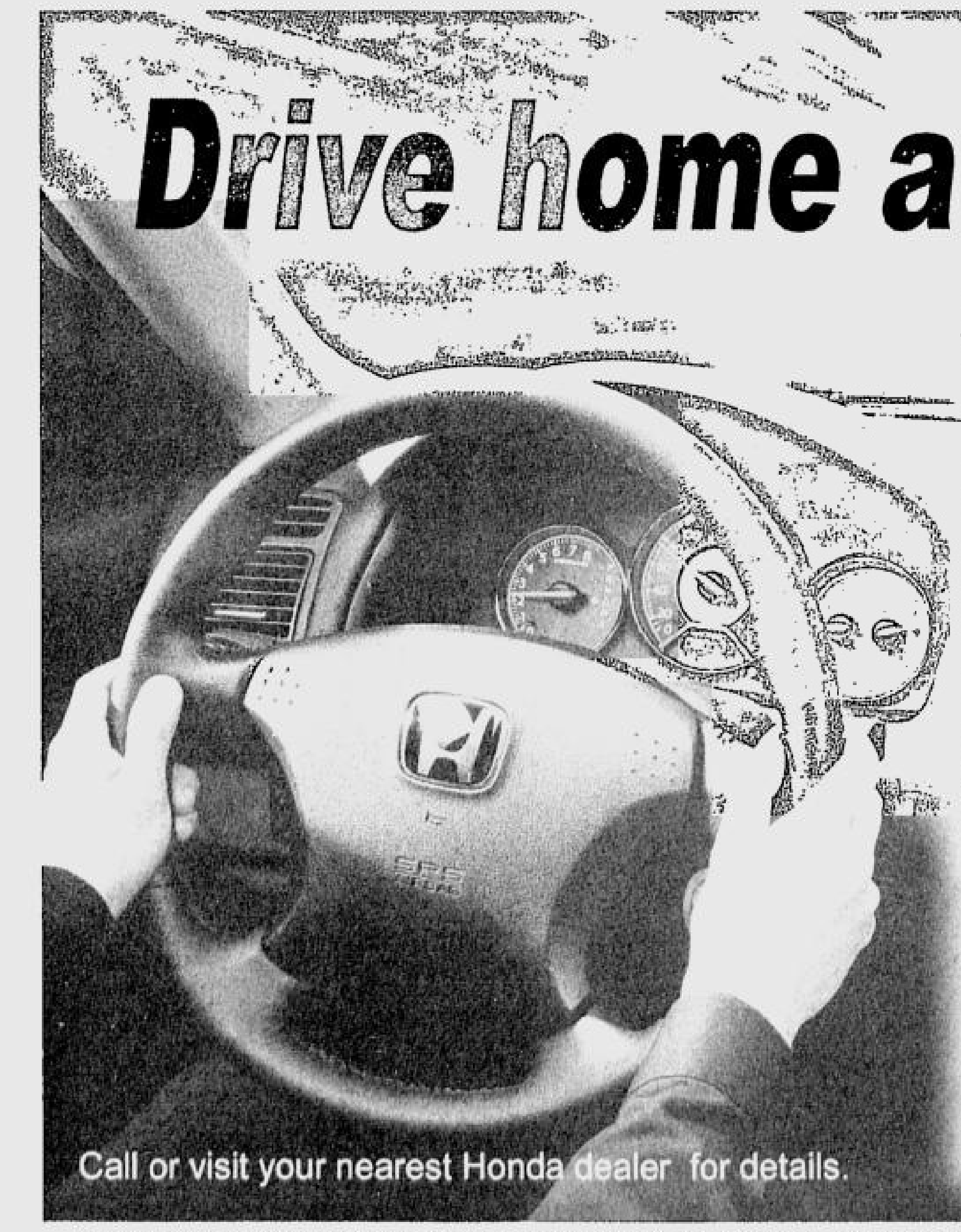

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In anticipation of the full implementation of RA 9224, Honda announces the adjusted retail prices of the following Honda automobiles:

Model	Variant	Old Price	New Price
City	1.3 A MT	P539,000	P499,000
	1.3 S MT	P569,000	P539,000
	1.3 S CVT	P609,000	P579,000
	1.3 S MT w/ ABS/SRS	P619,000	P579,000
	1.3 S CVT w/ ABS/SRS	P659,000	P619,000
Civic	1.5 LXi MT	P718,000	P660,000
	1.5 LXi AT	P748,000	P690,000
	1.6 VTi MT	P780,000	P710,000
	1.6 VTi AT	P815,000	P745,000
	1.6 VTi-S MT	P835,000	P760,000
	1.6 VTi-S AT	P870,000	P795,000
	1.6 VTi-S MT (leather)	P894,000	P800,000
	1.6 VTi-S AT (leather)	P929,000	P835,000
Accord	2.0 VTi AT	P1,280,000	P1,080,000
	2.0 VTi-L AT	P1,398,000	P1,220,000

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Pangasinan's nonsectarian Ednas School marks 37th year

FOR THE many students of Dagupan City, Ednas School is the place for formal learning. For residents, the school serves as a landmark for a city known as Pangasinan's chief port and commercial center with an estimated population of 140,000.

One of the oldest private nonsectarian schools in Pangasinan and first in early childhood and basic education, Ednas School was founded in 1966 by former Dagupan City Councilor Edna Torio-Gonzales. This year, the school is celebrating it 37th year of providing quality education to the northern part of the Philippines.

Ednas School started as a kindergarten private school with Gonzales teaching only about 35 students. Today, the school has more than 1,000 pre-school, elementary and high school students from all parts of Dagupan and neighboring towns and provinces such as Tarlac and La Union.

Other than traditional methods of teaching, Ednas School has adopted Multiple Intelligences (MI), the popular theory developed by Dr. Howard Gardner, to make education a more well-rounded system.

"We believe in a holistic approach that focuses on all aspects of a child's development-intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual. Parents and teachers have to know how to effectively pass knowledge and skills to kids nowadays. Because of this, we incorporate MI in our curriculum, believing that intelligence is not only about being good in academics," explains academic director Candy Gonzales-Blancaflor.

The school, which has 150 teaching and non-teaching staff, also applies "thematic learning" wherein teachers present lessons in a variety of ways through music, cooperative learning, art activities, role play, multimedia, and field trips.

"The challenge is how to expand our available teaching and learning tools beyond the conventional methods that could best fit each child's capacity to learn in their own unique ways," says Blanclaflor.

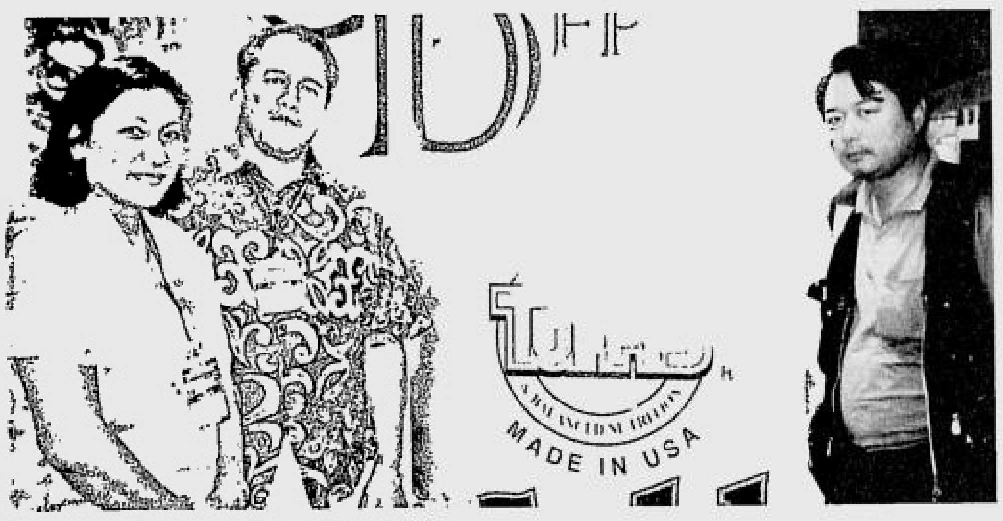
Gonzales is hopeful that Ednas School can serve as a springboard for the government's program for better education in northern Luzon. This year, the school is working toward the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Paascu) Level 1 Accreditation. It is also opening its toddler program in November. Ednas School of San Carlos in San Carlos City, Pangasinan is celebrating its 20th Foundation Anniversary this year while Ednas School of Alaminos will have its groundbreaking in Alaminos City early next year.

"Hopefully, with the accreditation and expansion, we can contribute to the improvement of quality education in our province and even in the region. We see to it that the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes acquired in our school match the real needs of the country," says Gonzales, adding that the challenge for the Ednas School is to empower its teachers, develop services for academic and career guidance for the students.

"This way, quality education becomes the school's own best reward to its students," Gonzales stresses.

DA, NAFC SUPPORT AGRILINK/FOODLINK 2003

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) have thrown their full support to the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development (FRLD) for its Agrilink/Foodlink 2003, the country's biggest and most prestigious international agribusiness and food trade show, which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 16 to 18. Shown huddled around FRLD chair Dulce I. Gozon at the King Louis Farm, Manila Seedling Bank, are, from right, FRLD president Antonio V. Roces, DA Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr, NAFC executive director Maridel Trinidad-Dizon, and Agrilink/Foodlink 2003 project director Rosalino G. Perez.



US BRAND TUFFY'S NOW IN RP

Sensing the need for a grade A pet food that is just priced right, Canine Depot, the country's leading one-stop shop for dog and cat food and pet accessories, recently launched Tuffy's, a popular brand high in protein, perfectly suited for pet's nutrition needs. Canine Depot was awarded by Tuffy's Pet Foods of USA the exclusive right to distribute Tuffy's in the Philippines. Tuffy's varieties include Chunks, which contains 21-percent protein for full-grown pets aged three years and above, High Protein, which has 27-percent protein content ideal for active puppies and even pregnant mothers who need to be highly nourished, Lamb & Rice offers an alternative nutrition for pets, Dinnertime Cat for pet cats' special diet needs, and the Premium Line (Gold Puppy and Gold Adult) containing 32-percent protein, perfect for show dogs. Shown is Eduardo Legarda (2nd from left), president of Petpro Inc. mother company of Canine Depot, and Rosalita Legarda (left), vice president, with a customer during the launch. For free delivery, call Canine Depot at 715-4024 or 0917-5390717.

Filipino creativity goes out of this world

WHEN Neil Armstrong made the historic "one giant leap for humanity" on the surface of the moon on July 20, 1969, it was said that the dusty footprints left by the first man on the moon were also indelible footprints left on the hearts of millions of people.

Two years later, in July 1971, Eduardo San Juan's invention enabled the astronauts to navigate the surface of the moon and replaced those footprints with tracks from his lunar rover. Since then, moon exploration was never the same again.

The first lunar rover was a Filipino invention.

This remarkable invention of San Juan is showcased in one of the television ads of the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress (PAC) as part of its tri-media campaign for this year under the theme "What's the Big Idea?".

J. Walter Thompson (JWT), the advertising agency of this year's Ad Congress, collaborated with 18th PAC's creative committee chaired by David Guerrero, executive creative director of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega and produced a campaign that pays tribute to outstanding Filipino inventions which have won global recognition. Its concept aims to instill pride among Filipinos for his ingenuity and inspire the present generation to come up with creative ideas for survival and growth.

Robert Labayen, managing partner of JWT, explained that they created a campaign that would make Filipinos feel good about themselves as ordinary people who can do extraordinary things.

Interestingly titled "Parañaque", the commercial shows a jeepney with a Moonwalk signboard traversing a road full of potholes, which resembles that of the moon's craters. A communication between two astronauts manning the rover plays in the background, expressing their amazement over the rover.

San Juan's lunar rover made it possible for Apollo XV astronauts to cover a far greater distance on the moon than any other previous mission. The foldaway electric vehicle, which became the prototype of lunar rovers in the years that followed, was built out of scrap aluminum, an old umbrella, bicycle handlebars, automobile hubcaps and batteries. The invention earned San Juan the reputation "The Space Junkman" in a story in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

The 18th PAC will be held from Nov. 19 to 23 in Baguio City.

Richard Reynoso at CSB Hotel

LISTEN to Richard Reynoso, the country's "prince of pop music". He will serenade guests with his soothing voice. See Casper the Friendly Ghost, Frankenstein, Count Dracula. Freddie Kruegger, Wolfman, Mr. Hyde, the Monster of the Lagoon, Broomhilda, Centaur, Zombies and other "horrifying" characters.

Watch Philippine local characters of the underworld such as the manananggal, aswang, mambabarang, tikbalang, kapre, hunyango, tiyanak, mamaw, bampira gyrating to the beat of the music.

See them all as the CSB-International Conference Center holds its 'Halloween Night" on Friday, Oct. 24 at the International Hall on the 2nd floor starting at 7 p.m. The hotel is conveniently located along Arellano corner Estrada Street, Manila.

Marcy David and his band will provide disco and ballroom music. Roving dance instructors will be available the whole evening. For P150 per ticket, guests will be entitled to two rounds of McKevins paradise punch. Ala carte food can also be ordered.

Prizes are at stake for the best costume, best dance pair, and early birds. For reservations and ticket inquiries, call the sales and marketing department at 400-3333 or 400-5455.

RICHARD Reynoso, with ape man' buddy.

BU Silver Jubilarians homecoming

ALL SILVER Jubilarians of Bicol University, School of Arts and Trades batch 1978 are invited to an alumni homecoming this December. For information, call architect Jun Sacayan at 428-5799, 0917-8942221, or Pop de Vera at 0917-7890121.

EEZEE LINKS LAUNCHED A LA 'CHICAGO'

Purefoods/Hormel recently launched Eezee Links products at Dish, Rockwell via a musical to the tune of the hit movie 'Chicago.' The show was directed by Frannie Zamora and choreographed by Ding Santos and written by Paul Pereyra with performers such as Beverly Salviejo, Ate Glow, and the marketing force of Purefoods/Hormel CJ Dalet, Mian Alentajan and Popoy Roderos. The music was redone to fit the products' message of quality, convenience and sanitation in its new packaging format. The products-Purefoods Eezee Links Purefoods Carne Norte, Sisig and Chinese Luncheon Meat-comes in a new plastic casing with double cap tube casing keeping the products fresh, great tasting and germ-free. Shown giving a toast to the show and the products are, from left, Antonio E. Mendoza, national sales manager, Francisco S. Alejo III, Purefoods-Hormel president, David Longacre of Hormel USA, Cherryjoy Dalet, Purefoods-Hormel product manager, Enrique A. Gomez, San Miguel-Purefoods president, Regi I. Baylosis, Purefoods-Hormel marketing director, Mian A. Alentajan and Popoy Roderos, Purefoods-Hormel product managers.

Your own laundry shop made possible with Mr. Wash offer

RAINY days are here again, and the perennial problem of washing and drying your laundry is on a high. Lots of people, including yourself, will be storming to the nearest laundry station to have the daily laundry washed and prepared for the coming days. For those who have their own washing machines and dryers, this will not pose a problem, but for the majority of us, off we go to the laundry shops!

The Philippines, having just two seasons in a year, experiences rain during almost half of the year. So if you are planning to set up a business, consider putting up a laundry shop. Why? Because as long as there are clothes needed to be washed, your laundry shop will be there to service them.

Mr. Wash Laundry Service, Steam Wizard Clothes Steamer and Admiral Home Appliances of the United States is opening the doors of opportunity to all who are planning to set up their very own laundry shop. From Aug. 1 to Oct. 1, you can get a free Mr. Wash Laundry Service franchise simply by purchasing three units of Admiral AAV1200 washer, three units Admiral LNC 8760 LPG dryer and one unit of a state-of-the-art Steam Wizard Handy Clothes Steamer.

Other laundry franchise chains will charge you almost P1.5 million in setting up your laundry shop. With this offer from Mr. Wash International and Admiral Appliances, your start-up laundry franchise will surely enjoy a quicker return of investment because of the more than P500,000 savings in acquiring a Mr. Wash franchise. Simply forward your receipt and letter of intent and desired location to Mr. Wash International Inc sales office (telephone number 910-5074) to process your free franchise application.

Getting a Mr. Wash free franchise gives you benefits, like a discounted start-up package fee of P50,000 that includes Mr. Wash Laundry shop operations actual training for laundry personnel and an operations manual, initial supply of laundry detergent, dry cleaning agents and other supplies, furniture, equipment and signage layout plan, and the grand opening and other marketing activities.

Aside from the start-up support, other benefits would also include continuous operational and technical support, numerous in-store business opportunities and inclusion in Mr. Wash consumer promo programs. No other laundry shop franchise can offer such benefits, and at a very low cost.

For more information on how to avail yourself of a free Mr. Wash franchise, you can reach Manny Martinez at 910-5074 or call the Admiral Home Appliance head office at 671-5955.

ProductFILES

What is Chamdor sparkling bubblers?

ARE YOU feeling all bubbly and high-spirited? Or are you just raring for a swig of your favorite drink, but don't want to get buzzed?

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The answer is sparkling bubblers-a light and refreshing blend of 100-percent pure, unfermented grape juice that will go absolutely with any festive occasion. Since they're medium-bodied and nonalcoholic, sparkling bubblers make an excellent dinner complement to sautéed and rich-flavored dishes, perfect for deep-fried foods such as shrimp tempura or baked pastry.

And in the long run, sparkling bubblers can even actually benefit one's health.

Chamdor Sparkling Bubblers is an example of this great elixir of life. Versatile in three blends: delicate and velvery sweet Chamdor Red, the tart, bubbly lithe Chamdor White, and the crisp, fruity Chamdor Peach.

US sees faster economic growth

WASHINGTON—After new data Friday showed a faster-than-expected 3.3 percent pace for US economic growth, experts said the economy had accelerated but could start to coast later in the year.

The Commerce Department's final estimate of second-quarter gross domestic product was revised upward from its earlier estimate of 3.1 percent growth and topped the forecast by most economists, who expected no revision.

The April-June GDP increased from a 1.4 percent pace in the first quarter and is up 2.5 percent in the past four quarters.

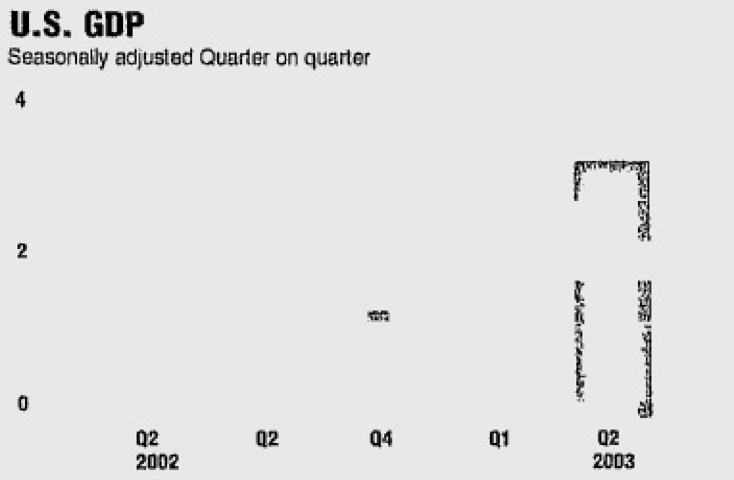
Most economists expect GDP to surge in the third quarter, which ends Sept. 30. The average forecast of economists is 4.9 percent growth, with some talking about six percent or even seven percent growth.

But David Rosenberg, chief North American economist at Merrill Lynch, said he sees a strong third quarter that fades toward the end of the year as some of the impact of the economic stimulus wears off.

Rosenberg said many of the recent economic reports, including a surprise drop in durable goods orders reported this week, showed that the economy may not be as strong as hoped.

One sign of weakness became apparent Friday as the University of Michigan consumer sentiment index fell to 87.7 in September from 89.3 in August.

The end-of-the-month figure was below the preliminary 88.2 September reading. It was also below the figure of 88.5 expected by most economists. *AFP*



NYSE has new head

NEW YORK—John Reed took up his new post as interim head of the New York Stock Exchange earlier than expected, arriving just before the close of business on Friday, as a growing number of officials close to ousted chair Richard Grasso are expected to leave.

One board member who looks to be on particularly shaky ground is Kenneth Langone. The AFL-CIO labor confederation on Friday urged his immediate removal from all NYSE board committees.

Another expected board departure is Goldman Sachs Group Inc. chair and chief executive Henry Paulson, though the timing will depend on a reform process at the NYSE, sources said.

In a letter on Thursday to members of the exchange, Reed made his priorities and timetable clear. He said the exchange will "embrace and make appropriately transparent new governance procedures" and "install a permanent senior management." *Reuters*

Wall Street's bull market faces fresh test

NEW YORK—Wall Street's bull market, running strong for six months, stumbled in the past week as investors questioned whether economic growth was enough to justify loftier prices.

The Dow Jones industrials slumped 3.44 percent in the week to Friday ending at 9,313.08 while the Nasdaq composite tumbled 5.96 percent to 1,792.05.

The broad-market Standard and Poor's 500 fell 3.81 percent for the week to 996.85.

Wall Street was roiled early in the week by the Group of Seven statement that called for more flexible currencies, suggesting the industrial powers wanted a weaker dollar, which could impact businesses in unpredictable ways.

Another hit came from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which announced a production cut that could boost prices and cut into economic growth.

Analysts said stock prices have built in high expectations for economic growth as well as corporate earnings for the third quarter, which ends Tuesday. As a result, a significant correction is possible.

"I think there's some concerns that the expectations for earnings are a little higher than they should be and if we don't match those earnings right off the bat, I think you could see some pretty significant profit-taking," said Tom Schrader, head of listed trading at Legg Mason.

Ryan Beck chief investment officer Joe Battipaglia said investors are struggling to predict whether the short-term pullback will continue, or whether the upward trend will continue.

Ralph Acampora at Prudential Securities said the bull market remains intact, but that traders will test the lows in the most recent pullback in August.

"Anxiety must be building and we would suspect some buyers are on the sidelines. We have our eyes keyed in on the late August lows and will monitor near-term technical barometers closely, but continue to see no significant erosion in intermediate and longer-term measures of market health."

Among active shares, Eastman Kodak plunged 23 percent to 21.40 after announcing a new strategy focusing on digital imaging and a 72 percent cut in its annual dividend. *AFP*

South Korea scrambles to bolster economy

SEOUL—South Korea scrambled to shore up confidence in its recession-hit economy on Saturday with policy makers mapping out steps to calm the won's rise and revive consumer spending.

The country will ease some rules on credit card use, speed up budget spending and issue more bonds to mop up dollars on the local market in a bid to revive an economy hit by the worst typhoon on record, a rising currency and a surge in oil prices.

Many analysts have said the economy looks set to post its second-worst showing in more than two decades this year, failing to meet the central bank's growth target of 3.1 percent.

South Korea announced the measures after an emergency meeting of economic ministers chaired by Finance Minister Kim Jin-pyo and attended by Bank of Korea Governor Park Seung and top financial regulator Lee Jung-jae, among others.

The government plans to raise the ceiling on foreign exchange bond issues by five trillion won ($4.34 billion) from nine trillion to stem the won's rise, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. *Reuters*

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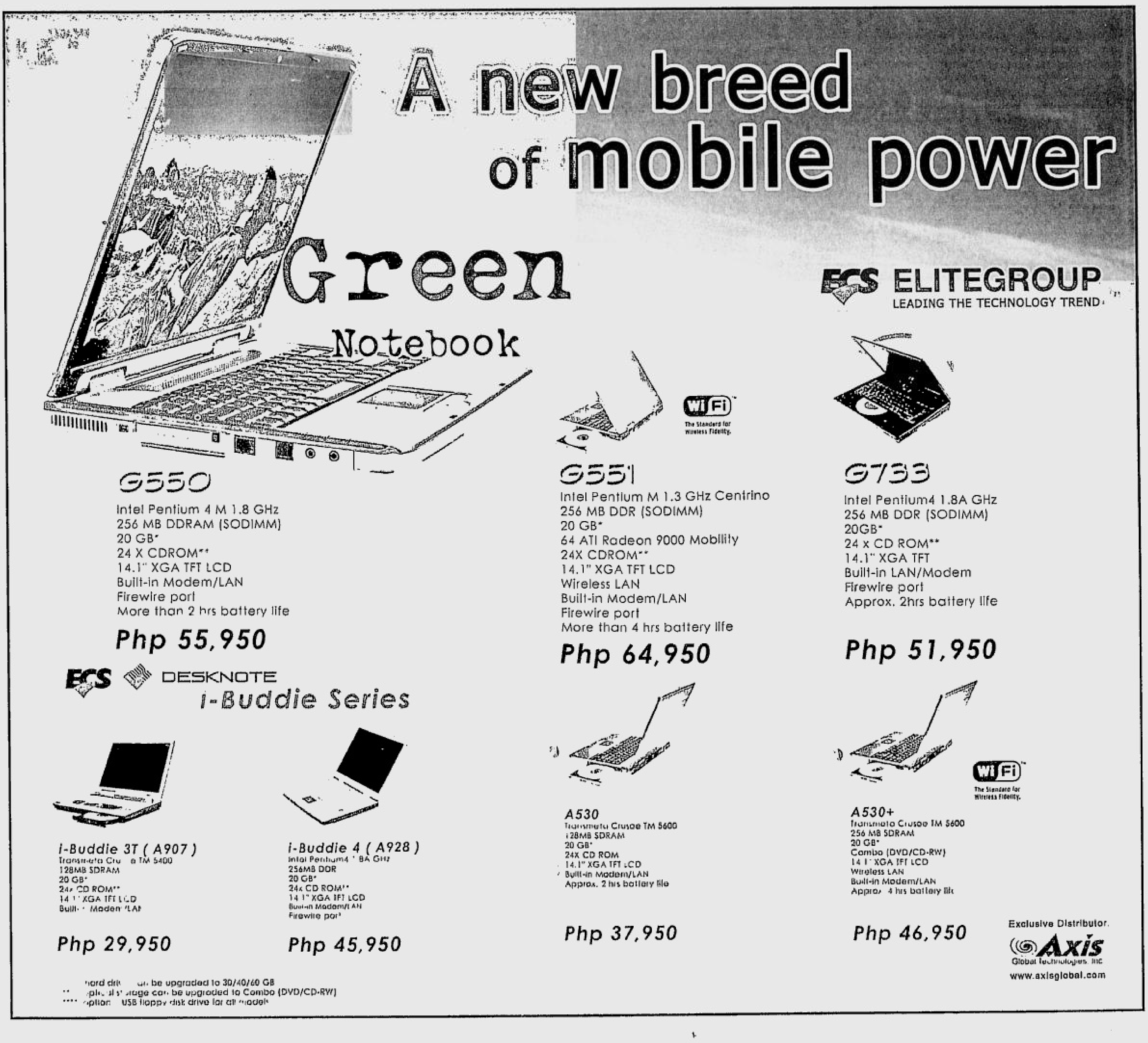
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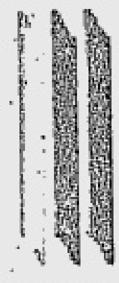

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Unit 2110 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower,
Chino Roces Ave., Makati
(across Don Bosco)
between 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
on September 29 and 30, 2003.
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Look for Miren/Oly.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS CENTER
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines Logistics Center Bids and Awards Committee invites all interested suppliers and manufacturers of CCIE, Ordnance and Medical items to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the supply and delivery to the AFP of the following items:

QTY.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET OF THE CONTRACT	DATE/TIME OF PRE-BID	DATE/TIME OF BIDDING
30,000 each	Poncho, Tent, Nylon, (Olive Drab)	P16,500,000.00	21 Oct '03 9:00 AM	06 Nov '03 9:00 AM
30,000 pairs	Boots Combat Field Use	P36,000,000.00	21 Oct '03 10:00 AM	06 Nov '03 10:30 AM
30,000 suits	Suit, Camouflage, Ripstop Weave (Battle Dress Attire 100% Cotton)	P29,700,000.00	21 Oct '03 11:00 AM	06 Nov '03 1:30 PM
19,427 kits	Medical Kit	P9,000,000.00	23 Oct '03 9:00 AM	07 Nov '03 9:00 AM
20,800 pcs	M14 Magazine	P20,800,000.00	23 Oct '03 1:30 PM	07 Nov '03 1:30 PM

Tender Documents shall be available during office hours starting 30 September 2003 at Procurement Unit, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo Quezon City.

Pre-bid and Bidding Conferences shall be held at Daza Park Pavilion, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes at the AFPLC BAC Secretariat at Daza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Center, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

For more information, please call the AFPLC BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 913-1175 or 911-6001 loc. 5434, or visit our website at www.logcen.com.

(Sgd.) REYNALDO S RAMIREZ
Colonel PAF (GSC)
Chairman, AFPLC BAC

(PDI - Sept 29 & Oct 6, 2003)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 7137284

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Globe Telecom stock certificate nos. 80643 for 47,431 shares and 30555 for 3,696 shares in the name of O.T. Kang Scholarship Foundation Inc. were lost as per Affidavit of Loss executed by its President, Mr Bienvenido A. Tan, Jr. per doc. no. 345, page no. 70, book no. I, series of 2003 of the Notarial Registry of Atty. Christine A. Tomas of Makati City.
(PDI-Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2003)

PERSONAL

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FROM: GEMMA SANTOS & FAMILY

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subject: ATTN: Carmie

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Notice is hereby given that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will sell **SERVICEABLE MOTOR VEHICLES AND SCRAP MATERIALS** located at BSP Motorpool & Sports Complex, P. Casal St., Quiapo, Manila and at BSP Main Complex, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate Manila thru sealed bids to be received by the Committee not later than 10:00 a.m. on **October 10, 2003** at Room MR-2C, 2nd Floor 5-Storey Building, BSP Main Complex A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila.

Inspection of the aforesaid items at their locations is set on **October 7, 2003** at 9:30 a.m.

Forms and further information may be obtained from the Committee's Executive Officer c/o Ms. Crisanta F. Reyes, Administrative Services Department, Room 110, ground floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, Telephone No. **525-8786**.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 29, 2003)

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NB This program is administered directly from Canada

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for its bidding for

1 lot COMPUTER SYSTEMS, etc.

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Devt. Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) marked "received" by the BIR with the accompanying Audited Financial Statements
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients and references, and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representative of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED
IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.

The above-mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with *Table of Contents* and *properly tabbed*. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO

C. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents: October 3, 2003

D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedule shall be announced to all eligible bidders

E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidder, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.

F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call tel. no. 920-5374 (direct) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4230 and 4911

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI - Sept 27 & 29 2003)

Office of the President
BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SIMPLIFIED BIDDING ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting, after two (2) failed biddings, interested proponents to participate in a simplified bidding of Bonifacio South Lots 4 and 5 Block 55 located within the Expanded Big Delta, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila covering an approximate total area of 3,266 square meters.

Interested proponents may submit their Letter of Interest to BCDA no later than 02 October 2003. Interested proponents can address their letters to:

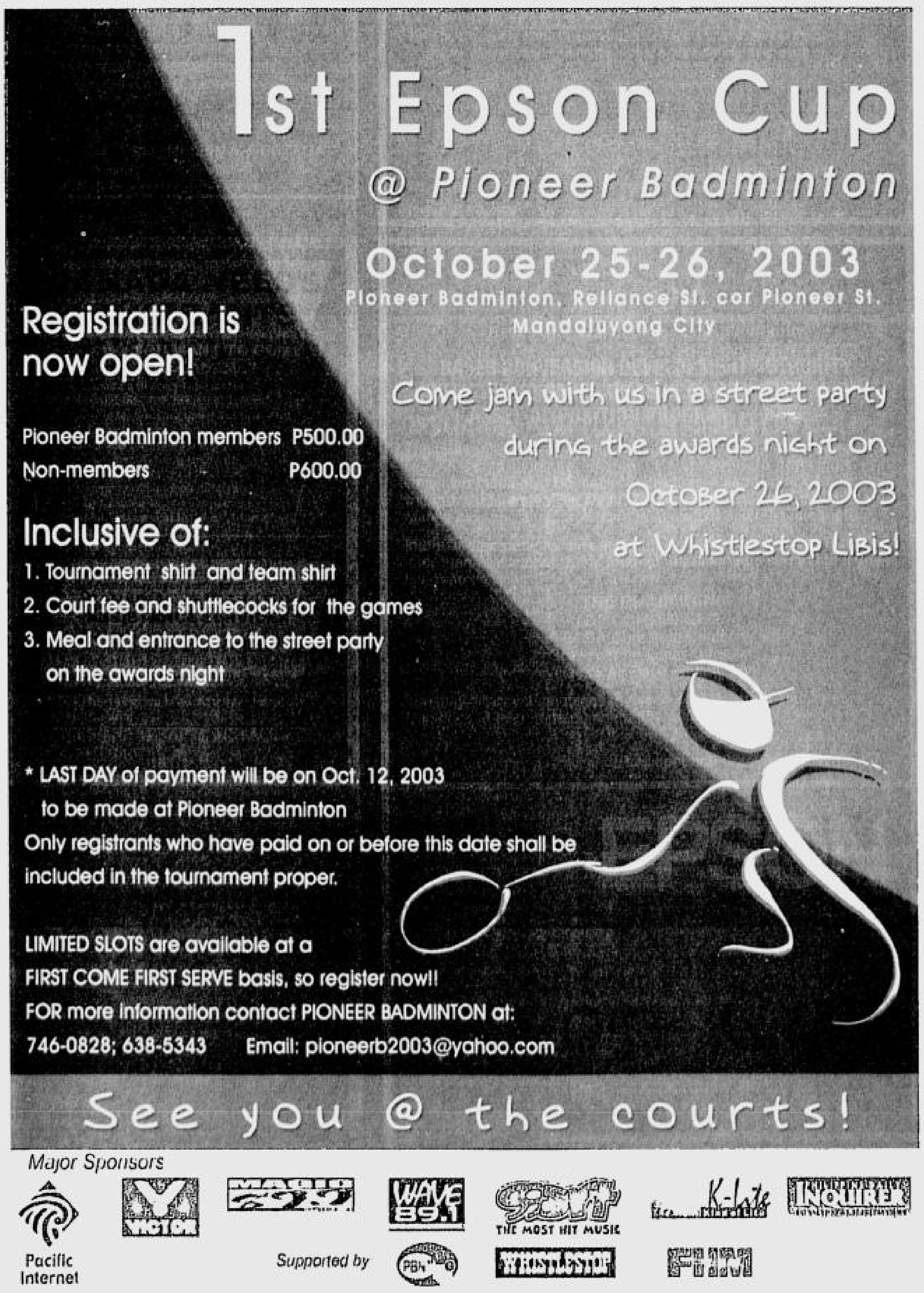
THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE-2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets,
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

You may direct your inquiries to Aileen Zosa, Bambie Andal and/or Joji Caniones at telephone numbers 551-3006 to 11 local 124 or 110.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI--Sept. 25 & 29, 2003)

EPSON



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Pioneer Badminton, Reliance St. cor Pioneer St. Mandaluyong City

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Registration is now open!

Pioneer Badminton members P500.00
Non-members P600.00

Inclusive of:
1. Tournament shirt and team shirt
2. Court fee and shuttlecocks for the games
3. Meal and entrance to the street party on the awards night

* LAST DAY of payment will be on Oct. 12, 2003 to be made at Pioneer Badminton
Only registrants who have paid on or before this date shall be included in the tournament proper.

LIMITED SLOTS are available at a FIRST COME FIRST SERVE basis, so register now!!
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See you @ the courts!

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UNDP

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of a Shipbuilder to Manufacture Seventy (70) Units of Fast Patrol Boats under the Project "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (PHI/03/006)"

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would like to invite local and International shipbuilders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of seventy (70) units of fast patrol boats for the "Support Programme for the Management and Conservation of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (PHI/03/006)".

The project aims to provide immediate and continuing assistance to the Philippine Government on sustainable coastal and marine resources management, particularly to achieve a more effective system of environmental governance, through strengthened multi-sector stakeholder participation, and delivery of environmental services, including monitoring and enforcement of existing laws on coastal resources.

One of the project requirements is the acquisition of seventy (70) fast patrol boats equipped with communication facilities and other accessories to be used in the enforcement of existing laws in the coastal waters. The boats will be deployed to Local Government Units that are most in need of apprehending violators of laws in their territories and where illegal activities are most rampant.

Bidding Documents (Requirements for Eligibility for, Instructions to Bidders, Terms of Reference and Standard Conditions of Contract) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Philippine Pesos One Thousand (PhP 1,000.00)**, from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier)
Tel. No. (632) 892 06 11 loc. 275
Fax No. (632) 816 40 61 / 893 2610
E-mail address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

International suppliers are encouraged to appoint and authorize Philippine-based counterparts to secure the bidding documents and submit proposals for and in their behalf.

The above mentioned Bidding Documents will be released to all interested parties strictly from **September 29, 2003 to October 3, 2003 only**. The Bidding Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates, other schedules and requirements.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP based on UNDP criteria. UNDP assumes no obligation or responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made for this Contract.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, OSSC

(PDI--Sept. 29, 2003)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
P.O. BOX 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmunoz@adb.org

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY

FOR THE PROVISION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY SERVICES AT ADB HEADQUARTERS
(Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/057)

1. The Asian Development Bank ("ADB"), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, invites interested companies to apply for prequalification in the re-bidding for the provision of safety and security services at ADB Headquarters Building at No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The Contractor shall provide security and safety services to comply with ADB's security and safety programs comprising (a) Physical Security; (b) Incident Coordination and Security Operations Center Services; (c) Traffic and Carpark Control; (d) Executive Protection services; (e) Investigation Services; (f) Security Training Certification Services; and (g) Miscellaneous Security Services, for the protection of ADB's property, assets and personnel. The detailed scope of services is given in the Work Performance Statement (Appendix 1 of the Contract).
2. As a minimum requirement, applications must have:
   i. Current certificate of License to Operate issued by the PNP SAGSD;
   ii. The minimum of five years continuous business business operation/experience in providing security services as evidenced by Certificates of License to Operate for the past five years;
   iii. Authorized capitalization of at least PHP 3 million, total assets of at least PHP 5 million, and a sound financial and credit position, as evidenced by the agency's audited financial statements over the past three years;
   iv. Minimum of 500 experienced, physically fit and appropriately trained security personnel currently deployed with established and recognized clients such as embassies and other international organizations, large commercial banks, hotels, industrial firms and multinational companies.

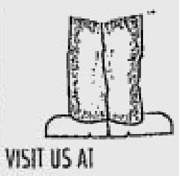
Aside from this minimum criteria listed in paragraph 2 above, ADB's Procurement Committee will evaluate applicants on the basis of Agency Profile (approach and methodology; total assets; number of uninterrupted years of experience in the security business; total number of security personnel currently deployed with clients; services currently offered; logistics; level of computerization of office operations; number of headquarters office staff, ownership of headquarters building; proximity of headquarters to ADB; number of hours and days of operation in the headquarters; affiliation/membership in major security/safety organizations; and number of pending labor/civil/criminal cases filed against the company); (ii) Personnel Profile (management personnel and guard force) and Clientele Profile (hotels/commercial bans and embassies).

3. The contract shall be for two years and thereafter ADB has the option to renew the contract every year for a maximum of five years.
4. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling, writing or faxing the Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, room 4219 North, No. 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines, at Tel. Nos. 632-4231/4216 (fax: 636-2567) from 29 September to 7 October 2003 (9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
5. Invitation to bid will be issued to prequalified applicants who pass the minimum qualification criteria and evaluated as prequalified by considering the evaluation criteria, which will be verified by the site inspections.
6. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation for prequalification shall be borne solely by the applicant. ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any application for prequalification and informs the results to all companies, which submitted the applications.

Chairman
Procurement
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI - September 29 & 30, 2003)

The best companies need the best people.



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The National Housing Authority is inviting prospective bidders to undertake the Design and/or Construction of the PRTC Phase II Medium-Rise Housing Project located at Kalayaan Avenue, Pasay City under a joint venture arrangement for the design, finance, construction and development of the project.

Interested proponents bidders are required to submit a letter of intent addressed to the Chairman, Project Evaluation Committee, National Housing Authority, 3rd Floor, NHA Main Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than **September 30, 2003**.

Checklist of requirements for prequalification of joint venture developers/partners and other pertinent documents relative thereto are available at the Office of the PEC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished Prequalification documents is on **October 10, 2003** not later than 5:00 p.m

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive formalities on any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **JOSEPH PETER S. SISON**
Assistant General Manager
Chairperson Project Evaluation Committee

(PDI Sept 29 2003)

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VICTOR A. ILUSORIO OJEDA

Peacefully joined God
on Saturday, the 27th of September 2003
at the age of 55.

A loving brother to **Ching** and **Ramon**, **Gus** and **Ria**; caring uncle to **Denise** and **Jimmy**, **Aldo**, **Ana**, **Pia** and **Luis** and devoted son to **Antonio** (†) and **Teresa** (†) with whom he is finally reunited in God's arms. We request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2003 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of His saints
(Psalm 116:15)

DOMINGO P. PARREÑO

(AUGUST 4, 1924 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2003)

Peacefully joined his Savior on Friday, September 26, 2003
(Saturday, September 27, Philippine Time)
at the age of 79 in Roswell, New Mexico, U.S.A.

His loving wife **Lume**; children and spouses: **Ariele** and **Marlyn**, **Cheryl**, **Bethel** and **Bobby**, **Disraeli** and **Ruth**, **Earl** and **Reca**, and **Nathan**; and grandchildren, request prayers for the family and celebrations of thanksgiving for his faithful years of living for his God while here on earth.

Plans for memorial services in the Philippines will be conveyed to relatives and friends.

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you"
Psalm 56:3

ROGELIO "Tiger" B. ADEA

(PELOTARI)

Peacefully joined his Creator on 27 September 2003

His loving wife Nonie; children Avie, Bong and Divina; and grandchildren Vincent, Denise, Nikki and Josh; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the St. Joseph Chapel. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish.

Interment will be on Tuesday, 30 September 2003 at the Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Chapel. Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine

Please omit flowers.

PRUDENCIO LEE UY

OF TUGUEGARAO CITY, CAGAYAN
PASSED AWAY ON THE
27TH OF SEPTEMBER 2003

His wife, Gloria Arangel Uy; children Paul and Aileen; sisters Victoria Kho and Purificacion Cheng; brothers Eduardo (†), Quintin, Elpidio, Maximilian, Oliver and Lito; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law; nieces and nephews; relatives and friends remember him for his filial love and sacrifices and the many silent ways in which he showed his love and generosity.

Cremation will be on September 29, 2003 (Monday), 1:00 p.m. at the La Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Quezon City. Mass will follow at 6:00 p.m. at his Quezon City residence at #39 Scout Gandia, near Tomas Morato Avenue where his ashes will be placed until October 1, 2003 (Wednesday) early morning when it will be flown to the family residence at Ugac Norte, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

DANILO Y. MAQUINAY

Lt Col (Ret) 0-105576 PAF

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on 27 September 2003 at the age of 55

His bereaved wife Mariza Aquino; Children Charo, Em-Em and Bongbong and grandchild Maverick Domini; parents Isabelo and Mercedes Maquinay; mother-in-law Rose J. Aquino; brothers, sisters and in-laws; relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the residence of his parents at Magallanes St., Carmona, Cavite and will be transferred to the PAF Mortuary Chapel, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City, on Wednesday. October 01, 2003.

Interment will be on 2 October 2003, 12 high noon at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City

---

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

DEATH NOTICES

GABRIEL NAELGAS DELA CRUZ
Passed away on September 26, 2003
at the age of 72.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Atty. REYNALDO GESMUNDO AZORRES
Joined his Creator on September 26, 2003.

His body lies in state at Capilla San Aemiliani of Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, 1354 Raymundo Ave., Pasig City. Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 1, 2003 at La Funeraria Paz-Crematorium, Quezon City.

MARIANO F. RIVERA
Joined his Creator on September 26, 2003
at the age of 74.

His remains lie in state at our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine at Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will be on Tuesday, September 30, 2003 at Marian Garden Memorial Park, Bundukan, Bocaue, Bulacan.

CLASSIFIEDS

POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), PSALM with office address at 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

I. PROJECT NAME : PROCUREMENT OF INDEPENDENT APPRAISER FOR PSALM DISPOSABLE ASSETS

II. BIDDING SCHEDULE : SINGLE STAGE BIDDING PROCESS

1. PRE-BID CONFERENCE	October 6, 2003 PSALM Conference Room 2:00 PM
2. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL	October 14, 2003 PSALM Office

NOTE: Interested Bidders may request clarifications in writing if unable to attend the pre-bid conference.

III. The complete package of Tender Documents shall be issued to duly licensed proprietors, partnerships or corporations engaged in Consultancy Services/Asset Valuation who submitted a Letter of Intent to participate in the bidding within seven (7) working days after the last day of advertisement in newspapers and/or posting on DBM/DOE/PSALM Websites of this Invitation. Prospective bidders must have a minimum five (5) years experience, three (3) years of which is in valuation of power plant and/or industrial facilities and landholdings.

All interested bidders may secure the bidding documents from the PSALM BAC Secretariat located at the 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City starting September 23, 2003 after payment of a non-refundable amount of **Three Thousand Pesos (P 3,000.00)**. Inquiries and/or clarifications to the eligibility and bidding requirements may be addressed to the Chairman,BAC at Tel.No. 817-00-37.

IV. The Bids and Awards Committee shall adopt the Quality-Cost Based evaluation procedure in the final selection of the Winning Bidder

V. PSALM reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

VI. The approved budget for the contract is Pesos: Four Million Five Hundred Thousand (P 4.50 M).

(SGD.) HELEN E.V. SAN PEDRO
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI-Sept. 29, 2003)

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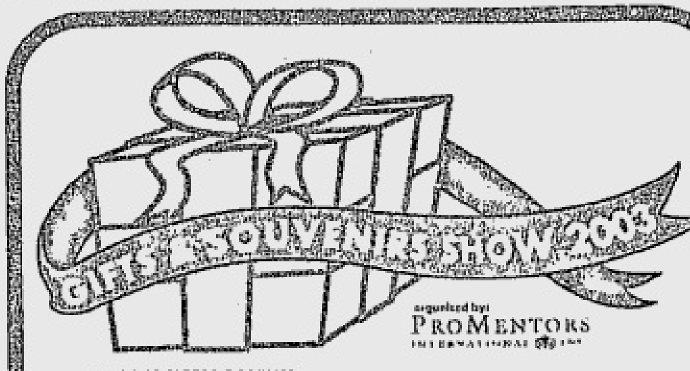

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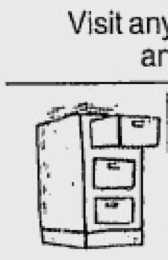

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China, India remain threats to RP outsourcing

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A PHILIPPINE firm eyeing the offshore business process outsourcing (BPO) market admitted that India and China remain the biggest threats to its business.

With China now playing catch-up with its aggressive campaign to teach their people the English language, local system integration firm DTSI is expecting the Chinese to speak English well in the next few years.

"China is fast increasing the quality of its (tech) labor. In three to five years, the Chinese will be speaking (better) English," said Mike Cardenas, executive vice president and chief operating officer of DTSI.

DTSI is a P7-million joint venture between Fujitsu Philippines and Filipino firm NewGen Holdings. The company currently provides technology solutions to offshore call center firms in the Philippines, among others.

"If the United States has lost the manufacturing business to China, what makes us any special if we relate this to our call center industry?" asked Cardenas who stressed that call centers will eventually have to diversify into the offshore BPO market.

India also remains a threat to Philippine offshore BPO players.

Cardenas said that similar to the strategy it did for its software industry, India is now pushing its own standard measure of "service quality" to differentiate its offerings from other countries like the Philippines. India is pushing Carnegie Mellon's Capability Maturity Model (CMM) as a standard measurement of the quality of its offshore software development services.

Cardenas said CMM eventually "killed" the Philippine software industry, which is now playing catch-up.

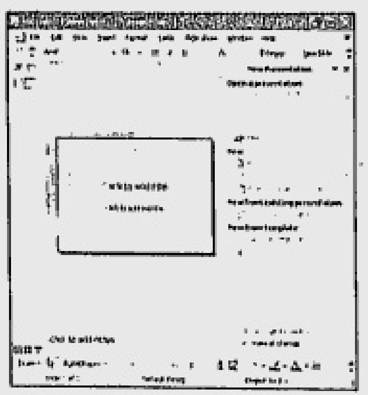
"It's expensive to play catch-up," the executive added, noting that it takes at least seven years for a company to achieve CMM level 5—the highest rating.

Of late, Indian firms are once again pushing for another standard measure for service providers playing in the global BPO market, Cardenas said.

BPO involves the outsourcing of management of non-core business processes to third party providers as part of a cost-cutting strategy of businesses. These business processes are systems dealing with payroll, finance/accounting, logistics, sales and marketing, and administration.

Based on industry projections cited by DTSI, the global offshore BPO market is expected to hit $234 billion in 2005. Over $60 billion will involve outsourcing of human resource systems to third-party providers, according to DTSI figures.

DTSI said the company's prospects next year remain "good" despite competition from China and India.



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POWERTIPS

Going directly to a Powerpoint slide during a slide show

By Jerry Liao

IF you have a Microsoft Powerpoint slide show containing multiple slides and you want to go directly to a particular slide (example: from slide 5, you want to go to slide 20), here's how to do it :

(1) Open your MS Powerpoint presentation.

(2) Click on the Slide Show button.

(3) Simply type the number of a slide followed by the Enter key, you will then go directly to that slide.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join The Powertips Group. Simply register online at ww.brainshare.com.ph/register.htm and receive free tips via e-mail. For your comments, questions and suggestions, send your email to infochat@mozcom.com.

Grab your Pengel and draw!

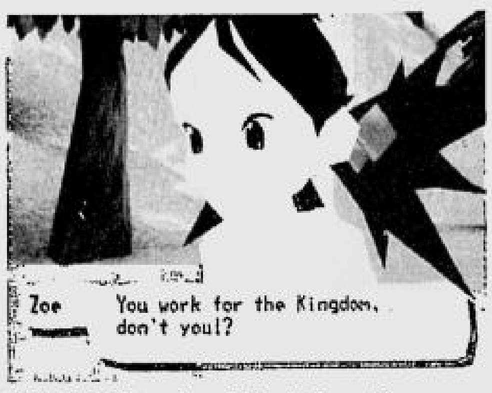
From page B16

view (move with the left analog stick, look around with the right). Magic Pengel is not a sprawling RPG. The entire game takes place in a village market with three arenas where duels are held.

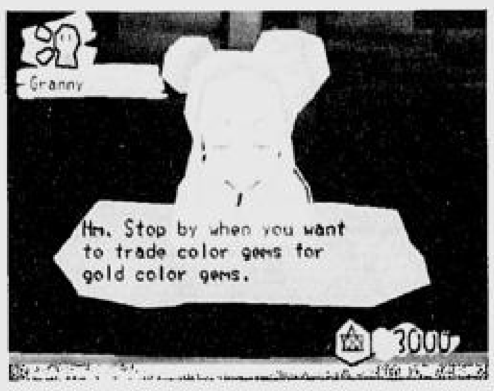
But first, a bit of a background. In the village you find yourself in, there are two kinds of beings. First are humans who are free of mind, and the others are doodles who are free of bodies. Only humans with pure hearts have the capability to draw doodles, and so the evil kingdom in the village enslaved doodles because color is the lifeblood of their existence. The stereotypical evil humans in the kingdom do not have pure hearts so they can't create doodles, and so they either enslave humans who are good doodle makers or they enslave doodles themselves.

The kingdom holds annual tournaments where humans create doodles and have them slug it off as if they were in a cockfighting arena. Unknown to the competitors, the kingdom holds the tournament to find out who are the best doodlers and doodles.

I know the story sucks, and it's meant for a young audience eager to hear a fairy tale.



THE ART direction of Magic Pengel is very Japanese. The graphics present an explosion of colors and makes you feel like your character is an actor in an animé.


Granny
Hm. Stop by when you want to trade color gems for gold color gems.
3000

AS you defeat other villagers' doodles, you receive color gems and experience points. You can then trade your color gems for gold gems (at an exchange rate of 2:1) which you can use to buy the doodles you've defeated.

Amateur doodler

This is where you come in. You find yourself in this village and start off slow with a stupid-looking doodle, and as you enter official tournaments you get more colors and part palettes, which you can use to add different parts like a head, arms, horns, legs, wings, weapons, designs or twirling objects attached to your doodle—all with the goal of beefing up your fighter. Duels start with one-on-one matches then progress to three-versus-three doodles, so the more doodles you create and develop, the better.

There are three arenas in the village. One is the main arena where official tournaments are held, the second is the seaside arena for practice rounds and the third is an underground arena where you play for serious experience points and colors (although you won't be able to enter this arena till the end of the game). You can either approach each villager and challenge them to duels (frustratingly, most of them would chicken out and say they're too busy to fight you, even when they're just standing there doing jack) or you can just go straight to the arena and challenge the next scheduled fighter.

However, older gamers may not appreciate the simple battle rules, the Pokemon-style art direction and plot of Magic Pengel. I must admit that the ending is a bit sappy and borders on the ridiculous, and adults may find the storyline a bit trite. Nevertheless, the explosion of colors in Magic Pengel is enough to keep you glued as you go through about 15 hours to develop your character and finish the story (you can't progress if you don't win).

Color explosion

The color explosion in Magic Pengel is quite artistic. The cinematics are kiddie yet appealing, and the ending sequence—where the colors of the village fade into black and white and then slowly return when snowflakes of color emanate from the Doodle King—are well-animated and embellished. Of particular note is the use of the same color with different hues for objects and characters around the village—some hair are colored light black on dark black or light brown on dark brown, the bushes and leaves are green on an even darker shade of green, the clothes are yellow on yellow or blue on blue and so on and so forth. The combination of cubistic artwork and pastel colors worked well for this game. Again, rather kiddie but still artistic.

A surprise twist awaits you after the end credits. All throughout the game you beef up your doodles to enter the tournament finals—which you will have to, eventually, if you want to finish the story—but the story ends even before the finals take place. If you're the type who turns off the console as soon as the end credits start rolling, don't do that with Magic Pengel. After the credits you'd find yourself back at the save point. Then you can continue dueling in the village even after the game is officially finished.

In other words, you can still play Magic Pengel even after you've finished it. But after amassing a lot of colors, more than a million gold color gems and more than 350 experience points for all six of my main doodles, there wasn't much to do anymore but to duel weaker doodles. By then, I got bored with the game's monotonous battle system.

Creating your doodles, getting them into fights and beefing up their experience levels are not always the best strategies. You can buy the doodle you defeat from the villager who owns it. In my case, I bought the doodles I bitch-slapped (the ones with high experience points and attribute levels) because in a team of three opposing doodles, more often than not only one of them would be strong. Through persistence or sheer dumb luck you're bound to defeat a group of three doodles with one very powerful fighter which you can buy later on. As you move up, you can add more arms, legs, horns and whatnot to this newly purchased doodle to improve its attributes, but chances are your doodles are gonna look like something out of Frankenstein's lab crossed with a toy from FAO Schwartz.

As you earn colors from defeated enemies, you can go to an old lady in the village and exchange them for gold color gems at an exchange rate of 2:1, or two regular color gems in exchange for a gold one. Good thing they don't follow the peso-dollar exchange rate. You can then use gold color gems to buy more doodles or brushes.

But this is where the novelty dies. Second to doodling your own character, dueling is the main draw of this game. However, the battle engine is a simplistic one based on rock-paper-scissors where Magic beats Attack, Attack beats Block, Block beats Magic and Charge is always the first action taken. The first few duels are exciting and even frustrating, but once you see the pattern it becomes rather mechanical and the whole duel boils down to who has the most hit points. I assume the game was designed as such since it obviously caters to young gamers, but RPG enthusiasts won't have fun with this battle system.

Turning Japanese

And although the voice actors are all Americans, the dialogues and monologues become repetitive, especially when you approach each villager and ask them if they want to duel. Unfortunately, you can't skip the script. Wait till you get to the castle tower where the bosses say the same things on and on like a broken record—it's gonna be a test of patience. Also, there were several grammatical errors in the text balloons which, oddly enough, were corrected by the American voice actors but not corrected in the text.

And get this: I know the Japanese have some problem pronouncing the letters "R" and "L" (as in "I rob you bely much"), but the spelling? In store signs in the village market, "Fresh seafood" is spelled "Flesh seafood" and "Bakery" is spelled "Bakely."

BWA-HA-HA!

Ahem. But all in all, the doodle-creation engine of Magic Pengel and the animé-style art direction give the game a unique appeal, albeit targeted for younger audiences. Admittedly, I got a kick out of the doodling system—where else can you find a game that allows you to not only develop your own character but also to draw them on 2D and then see them magically given life as a freely roaming (and fighting) 3D object in the game?

If you take things in perspective, such as the younger target audience and the innovative character drawing system, Magic Pengel for the PS2 is something to try at least once, despite the bad press it got. If you don't take it too seriously and just enjoy it for what it is, Magic Pengel can show you what other game developers can copy and improve on.

This despite the unsavory idea of eating "flesh seafood" from a "bakely."

California bans spam with threat of $1M fine

LOS ANGELES—Spam-weary e-mail users in California breathed a sigh of relief after the trailblazing US state banned junk mail and slapped fines of up to $1 million on offenders.

The tough new measure, signed into law by Gov. Gray Davis, outlaws unsolicited commercial e-mail sent to subscribers in California or sent from the western state.

"This is a precedent in the United States, it's the first time that a law goes after advertisers," Democratic state Sen. Kevin Murray, who proposed the bill, told AFP.

The measure is the toughest anti-spam regulation among those enacted in 35 US states.

"The proposal is based on my personal experience. I am tired of the spam I get every day which is an aggravation (and a waste) of time and money," Murray said.

Abusers can be traced and will be fined between $1,000 per unsolicited message and up to $1 million per campaign, the legislator said, adding that it would not be hard to enforce.

Under the tough new restrictions that have angered marketers, consumers must specifically agree to accept e-mail from each advertiser. The move is similar to a measure recently enacted in Britain. The majority of other US states require only that an advertiser stop sending spam only when a reluctant recipient asks them to do so.

Market research firm Ferris Research estimated that unsolicited commercial junk mail cost US firms around $9 billion in 2002 alone in lost productivity.

Murray said he hoped the new law would set a trend not only throughout the United States but also in other countries where consumers are troubled by a growing quantity of spam. *AFP*

Asean IT leaders . . .

From page B16

certification for various "high-quality ICT courses and certification programs" currently available in each member-country.

This initiative will encourage collaboration between competency centers in the region, and eventually establish a regional mechanism for promotion of cross-certification programs by 2004, the declaration said.

The Asean leaders also pushed for the formation of an e-Asean Business Council, which will be composed of representatives from the private sector.

The council is expected to advise the region's ICT leaders on policy and regulatory issues, as well as help them establish partnerships with global leaders.

As an initial action, the Asean ICT heads have agreed to submit their recommendations to the World Summit on Information Society in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2003.

The Asean member-countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

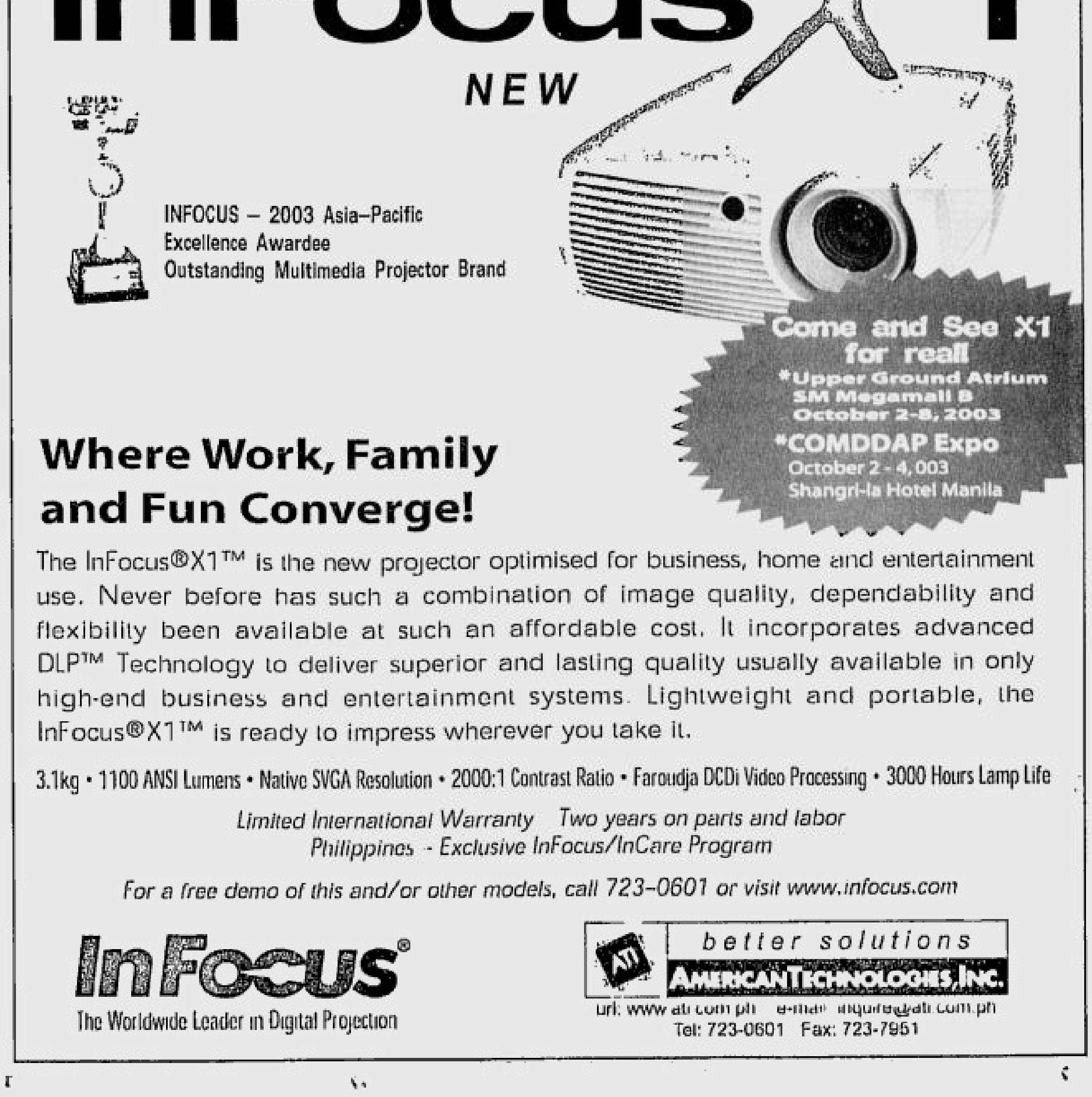
Internet date killer sentenced to death

TEHRAN—A young Iranian man has been sentenced to death for murdering a young woman he met over the Internet but who subsequently rejected his proposals of marriage.

The man and woman, identified only as Arash and Mamak respectively, reportedly met three times over the Internet—a common meeting place for many young Iranians.

He allegedly asked to marry her, but after Mamak's family refused to support the marriage he decided to kill her.

Arash, a divorcee with a daughter of his own, then stabbed her and attempted to kill himself. The Iranian Supreme Court said Arash would be executed shortly. *AFP*



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Editor **Leo Magno**

Asean IT leaders discuss network security

Tech execs in Southeast Asia pushing for regional network to combat cyberattacks

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

TOP officials of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) have acknowledged that information and communications technology (ICT) is necessary in the development of economies within the region, starting with the reinforcement of the region's computer network security.

In a declaration signed in Singapore, the Asean IT and telecommunications ministers have agreed to strengthen regional cooperation in cybersecurity and endorsed programs to facilitate trade, promotion of universal access, and the development of ICT skills and competencies in the region.

All these efforts will lead to the realization of the "Asean Economic Community," the officials stated in their 3rd Asean Telecommunications and IT Ministers Meeting Singapore Declaration signed on Sept. 19.

The Asean leaders have committed to have by 2004 a common framework for sharing information, such as vulnerability assessment data and cybersecurity threats, as well as standard operating procedures for dealing with cybersecurity problems.

Computer emergency response teams (CERTs) set up by each member-country are expected to provide necessary information.

The IT leaders have also agreed to hasten implementation of the Asean Telecommunications Regulator's "mutual recognition arrangements" (MRA) on conformity assessment for telecom equipment by 2005.

According to the declaration, the agreement will create standards for telecom equipment testing, which in turn, will lessen time to market and lower business costs and help create a common market for ICT goods and services in the region.

Negotiations regarding the MRA between Singapore and Brunei Darussalam, as well as Singapore and Indonesia, are expected to be initiated this year.

The Asean leaders have also agreed to create several regional databases. One will focus on trade and investment information with a view on information on policy and regulatory practices of member-countries. This will be available by 2004.

Another database will focus on the "digital divide." This database will highlight key statistics and ICT measurement indicators that can be used by policy and decision-makers in the region. This will be ready by the end of 2003.

The ICT ministers have also endorsed the need to have a cross-

ASEAN/B15

HP captures majority of Asia-Pacific market for blade servers: report

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

COMPUTER giant Hewlett Packard (HP) Corp. has captured most of the revenue for blade servers in the Asia-Pacific region, figures released by research firm Gartner Dataquest showed.

Based on its latest Asia Pacific Server Quarterly Statistics report, HP maintained its dominance in this niche for these new specialized servers. It showed that HP controlled over 65 percent of the market share in the region as of the second quarter of 2003.

Gartner previously stated that demand for blade servers would trickle in in the next 12 months, with early adopters mostly taking a first stab at this emerging server technology.

Of the companies surveyed in the Asia-Pacific region last year, only about 30 percent said they were "planning" to deploy blade servers within the year. On the other end, about 18 percent of the companies in the region said they were sure to deploy blade servers in the next 12 months.

Meanwhile, technology research firm International Data Corp. said the market for blade servers would grow to 20 percent of server units shipped in 2006.

A blade server is a thin electronic circuit board, containing one or more microprocessors and memory—components which are usually found on separate boards in conventional servers. Blade servers are intended for a single, dedicated application (such as serving webpages), and they can be easily inserted into a space-saving rack with other blade servers. The servers, which share a common high-speed bus, are designed to create less heat and thus save energy costs and space.

Large data centers and Internet service providers that host websites are the most likely buyers of blade servers.

Vendors like HP, IBM and Dell are now actively pushing this technology into the enterprise market, particularly for companies going into so-called cluster and grid computing.

HP is now pushing its own brand of Proliant blade servers that come in different sizes.

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Grab your Pengel and draw!

By Leo Magno

WITH THE RUSH to release new video games nowadays—no thanks to Hollywood production studios wanting to release lame games related to their new movies—many gamers have become jaded with new games out in the market. Sadly, most of the new games out there offer nothing but rehashed ideas, so it's a welcome treat that a fresh idea found its way into "Magic Pengel: The Quest for Color" for the PlayStation 2.

I must admit that I still find most of the games I have for the PS2 as rather generic, although some of them do stand out in the innovation department. One of them is Magic Pengel developed by Taito and Garuta Studios as published by Agetec.

PS2
PlayStation 2

We review this game on the PlayStation 2

Recently I saw "XPlay" on TechTV, that video game show hosted by Adam Sessler and Morgan Webb. They gave Magic Pengel a harsh review but forgot that they are not the target audience for the game. It's for kids, guys—stop being so cynical. And it's "pen-jel," not "peng-gel," Morgan. Girl, you should have paid more attention to the game instead of asking on international TV: "What the hell is a peng-gel?"

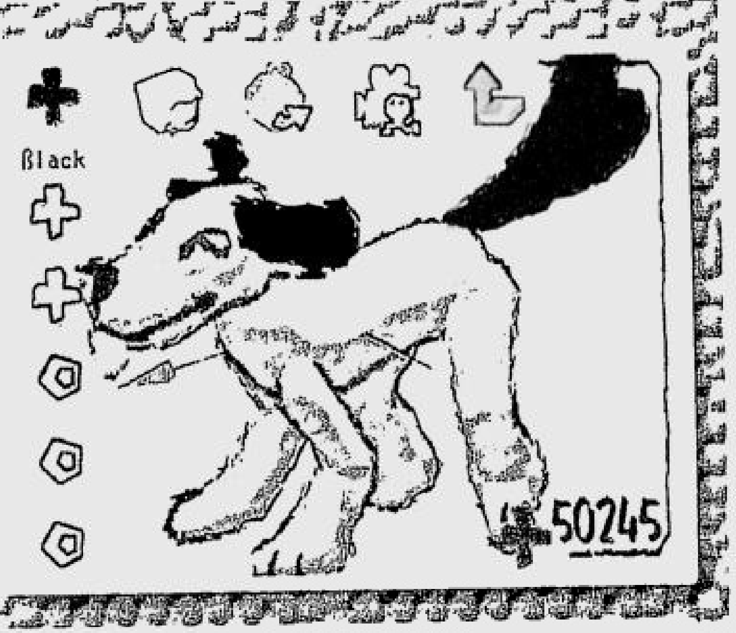
Magic Pengel (a combination of the words "pen" and "angel") is a role-playing game that is very Japanese. It has animé and spelling errors written all over it. But what sets it apart is the unique doodle-creation engine that, using the controller, allows you to draw doodles which you use to duel with other doodles (try saying that three times fast). In other words, Magic Pengel, known in Japan as Rakugaki Kingdom, is one-of-a-kind because of its art direction and character-creation engine.

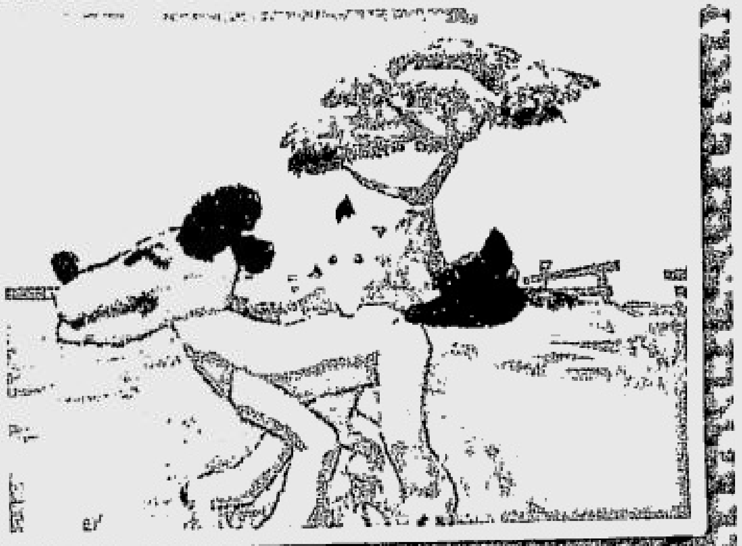
Using your Pengel, several brushes and colors at your disposal, you draw your doodle on a 2D palette, and then the game renders it into 3D. You can view your doodle's movements (how it flies, walks, attacks) prior to saving it. As you challenge people to duels and win matches, your doodles get experience points and you earn your opponents' colors which you can use to create even better doodles. The amount of colors you have are finite so you have to do battle to continue drawing and improving your doodle-fighters. Generally, the bigger the doodle and the more colors you use make the doodle stronger.

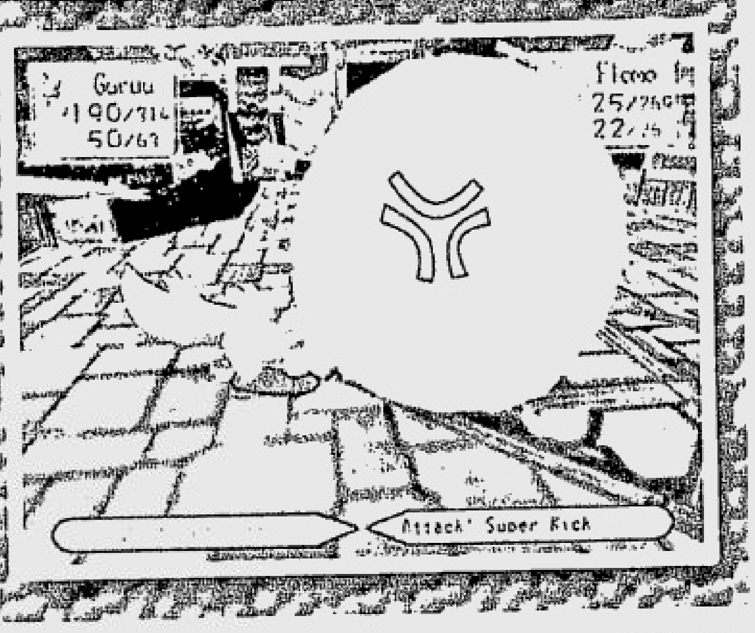
However, the colors also determine your doodle-fighter's attributes. Depending on the colors you use, your doodle can become one of three types: a Blocker, an Attacker and a Magic type. Some colors affect your doodle's luck, agility, attack and defense levels.

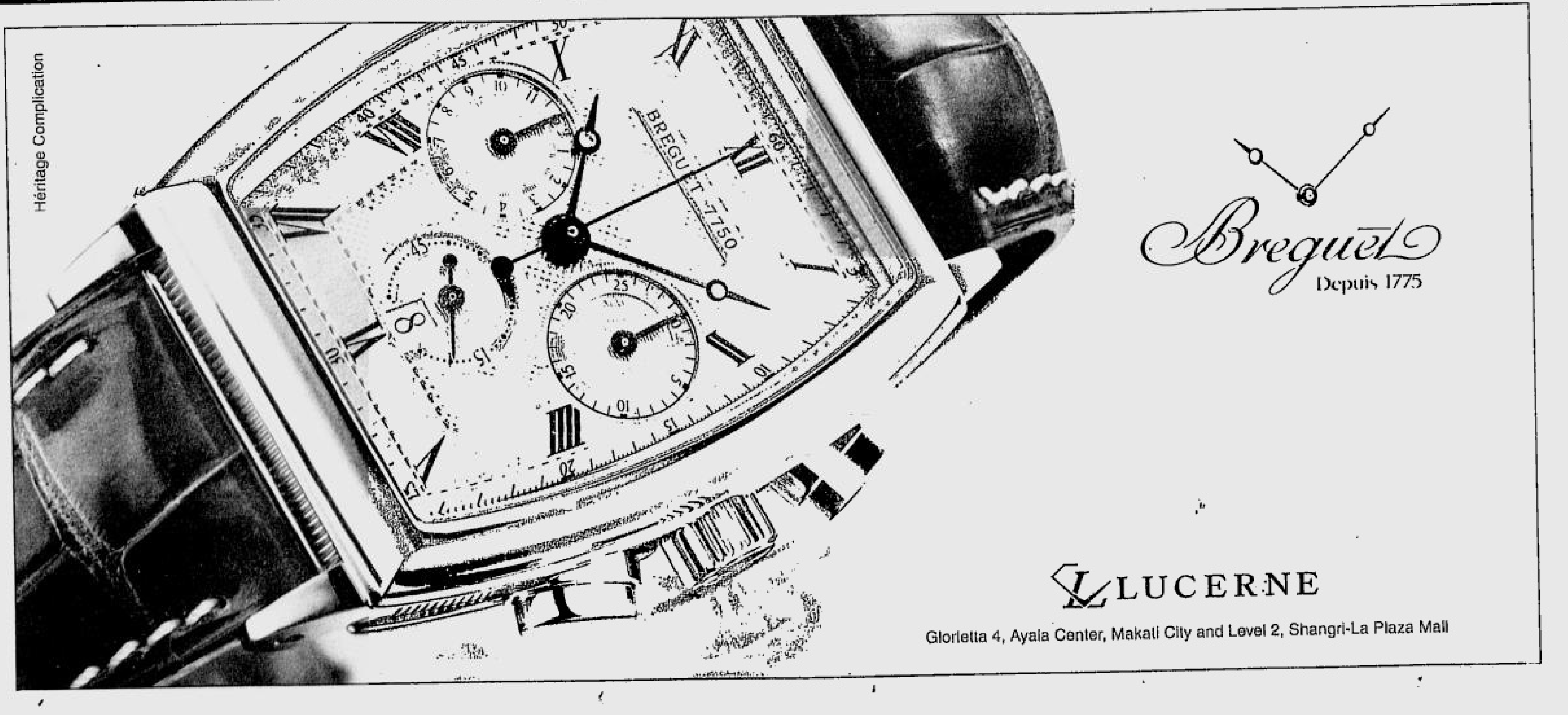
After creating your first doodle (a mandatory circle which the game instructs you to draw), you'd be asked to name your character and then be led by your Pengel—a tiny flying fairy with a brush on its butt—into the village in first-person

GRAB/B15





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Creative ways to lighten up the debt burden

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THE FOREIGN debt is in the news again, as the latest total runs up to $56.1 billion. Convert that to pesos assuming a flat P55 per dollar, and the sum is P 3.0855 trillion.

People may not grasp the size of that amount. Suppose you had all that money in your wallet in the form of P100 bills. And you take out a bill every second. You would spend more than 978 years emptying your wallet.

The foreign debt is not in crisis levels. After all, 89 percent of the debts are in medium to long term accounts. They mature at an average of 16.7 years, so there is still ample breathing room.

However, the foreign debt is a burden, because, together with the local debt, it eats into the national budget. Debt service, mostly on local obligations, took up a quarter of the 2002 budget. It is vital to ease the debt burden over time so as to devote more funds for social priorities.

The most critical way is to arrest the fiscal deficit. The debt is a symptom of a larger problem, revenue shortfalls. The government does not raise enough funds from taxes and duties, so it is forced to borrow.

"Unless we can reverse the trend in our fiscal deficit, however, this risk becomes greater," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro N. Camacho said last July.

Creative mechanisms

There are other means to lighten the debt load.

Argentina made use of exit bonds. The foreign banks accepted low-interest government bonds to cover a fraction of the country's existing debt. Argentina also offered an incentive for early agreement. Creditors who agreed early to provide fresh loans were rewarded with extra interest. This helped close the deals more quickly.

Peru's innovation was the debt for commodity swap. One of the nation's creditors exported Peruvian textiles, prawns and asparagus, and retained a portion of the revenue as debt payment.

There was a double advantage here: scarce foreign exchange was conserved while exports were encouraged.

Japan's ace was a factoring company. Banks sold the loans of Latin American nations at a discount to a factoring company that restructured and collected the debts. While the banks recorded losses equal to the discount, they availed of tax deductions.

Chile's burden was eased through retiming. The banks collected interest only once a year rather than semiannually.

Debt for equity swaps were in vogue in Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, and many others. The mechanism was interesting.

Creditors sold their loans at a discount to a multinational company. The multinational then swapped the loans for local currency at the client country's central bank. Hence, the multinational invested the money into domestic industry. As debt was erased, new investment was pumped into the debtor nation.

For companies that want to invest in a debtor, the clearest advantage of a debt for equity swap would be getting dirt cheap local currency.

The larger the offered discount, the more attractive the incentive to swap. This gap is the effective subsidy, and it may have to be very generous to compensate the investor for potential risks.

Not the perfect solution

However, debt-equity swaps can impact on the money policies of the country. If the authorities finance the exchange through the banking system, money supply will expand equivalently, and the country can suffer much inflation.

According to IMF equations on Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and the Philippines, the conversion of a mere 5 percent of outstanding debt could unleash a 33-59 percent increase in the domestic money supply.

On the other hand, relying on the stock market would likely unleash a steep hike in interest rates. "Crowding-out" would ensue, as local firms are squeezed out of the market by the debt-swapping multinationals.

Moreover, it's doubtful that the stock markets of developing countries are big enough to absorb all the public debt needed for the swaps.

Money merry go round

Then there is the problem of "round-tripping." Investors can gain no-sweat profit by converting foreign exchange into assets in the debtor country at a huge discount—and then recycling the domestic assets back into foreign exchange. The process is repeated continuously.

Authorities had to put on the brakes on early debt conversion programs in Brazil and Argentina due to widespread round-tripping.

Then again, the debt-equity scheme may end up attracting not foreign investments, but simply foreign exchange salted away by local businessmen. All told, debt-equity swaps can't be seen as a sweeping cure-all for debt problems. Use the many mechanisms available. Most importantly, raise more government revenue to plug the deficit. *Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>*

'It's all about quality of work you put in'

CASTRO

PROJECT management firm SP Castro and Associates Inc., attains its second ISO certification in the same fast-track fashion as its founder's working style.

For years, he was known in construction circles as the Palace Builder—the project manager who in 1984 steered 5,000 people from 30 different countries into the fast-track finish of the world's largest palace, the Palace of the Sultan of Brunei.

Salvador Castro Jr., unwittingly intimidated colleagues and potential clients with his resume. Word got around that his company was unreachable, and solely into projects that promised profit and prestige. Castro, chair and managing director of project management firm SP Castro and Associates Inc., simply chuckles.

"Take the driveway of a low cost housing project and the driveway of a rich man's house. What's the difference? They're both working driveways," he explains. "You'll say cost, but that's not what project management is all about. Project management isn't about the kind of projects you have; it's about the quality of work that you put into each project. It's also about conditioning the minds of the people working with you, making them put value into each project."

Since reestablishing SPCA in the country in 1997, the company has earned a new reputation—a versatile project management firm ready to take on the challenges of complex and highly-specialized projects. Its portfolio includes the Asian Hospital & Medical Center, the Marco Polo Davao, Linden Suites, Peninsula Manila, the Makro chain of stores.

Upon taking over from Makro's foreign project manager, SPCA completed the commercial complex in a record six months—two month's faster than its predecessor. The simultaneous construction of business centers for the country's top telecommunications company saw the SPCA Team assigned to the project wrap up work in a mere 30 days. "So the technique can be applied to both high-end and low-end projects," he says. "And everyone enjoyed working with us. No one felt threatened or intimidated."

His team of 50 agrees. SPCA's slew of directors, senior managers and project managers have become efficiency experts in their own right. With enough latitude for decision-making and taking charge, they copy-furnish the boss with text messages to and from clients, and use the Internet and their camera-equipped cell phones to provide up-to-the-minute reports on a project's status. Globalization and succession issues prompt Castro, an energetic father of three grown girls to share, if not step back from the spotlight. "I've been trying to transform the company from the traditional system where you have many people under you, to an office with people who stand alone and work independently," he says.

To procure its latest ISO 9001: 2000 version certification (awarded this July by international accreditation firm SGS Yarsley of the UK), the staff fast-tracked the documentation of its Quality Management System (QMS) and manuals in six months—a process that normally takes a year-and-a-half to complete. During the critical auditing phase, the company reported zero non-conformances (or the effective implementation of its QMS). Such is a rarity among even the finest ISO candidates.

Castro, who had an active role in securing the first ISO 9002 certification in 1998, says he "didn't lift a finger" for the latest ISO. "I just wanted to show that this is what a Filipino can do in his own country," he smiles. "We're not trying to compete with anyone. Our greatest competition is ourselves."

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Bee Matched & Win with Jollibee and Nestea

FUN AND excitement continue to storm Jollibee as it brings lots of prizes and Jollibee treats in its "Bee Matched & Win" with Nestea promo. Angeline Concha, Nomer Cosep, and Valentin Ypil are among the first winners of the "Bee Matched & Win", winning major prizes like a Nokia 6610 cell phone, Swatch watch and Nestea Jacket.

Through the "Bee Matched & Win", you can get the chance to win these prizes and a lot more when you purchase any Jollibee Value Meal with a Go Nestea drink upgrade. A Scratch and Match card is your ticket to winning a major prize as well as minor prizes of beverage pads, Nescafe Mocha Java sachets, Nescafe Caramel Mocha sachets, and Maggi Champorado Sachets.

In the three silver boxes in the card, scratch the first two boxes and see if their figures match to get any of the major and minor prizes. The third box entitles you to a special Jollibee treat on your next purchase of the required Value Meal.

Bee Matched n' Win
NESTEA

Winner Angeline Concha could not contain her happiness with her recent streak of luck. "My 6-year-old son Edan Jienune always prefers to go to Jollibee for a snack or meal. He told me he wanted to drink ice tea so I ordered an Arroz Caldo and a Spaghetti Special Meal and asked for Go Nestea. I was given this card to scratch, which I eventually did. I was surprised when I found out that I won a cell phone. In addition to this, I also got a free Jollibee treat. That is when I realized that those winners I read in the papers who win raffles are indeed real. I told my neighbors about this and even encouraged them to go to Jollibee to find out for themselves," Concha narrated.

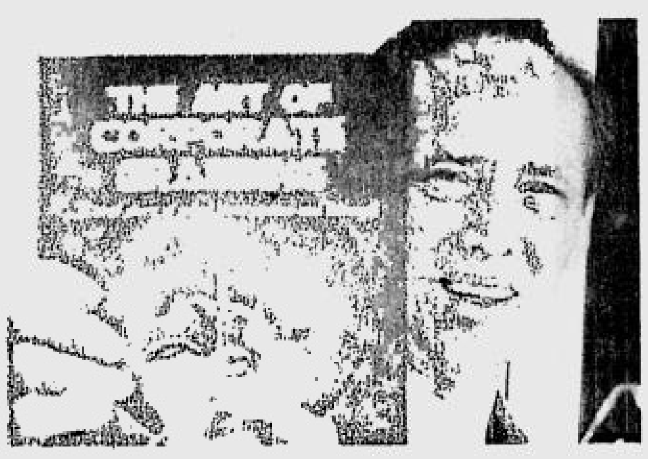
So what are you waiting for? This promo is only until Oct 31. Go to your nearest Jollibee store now, enjoy a wonderful Jollibee meal and get the chance to win loads of prizes. This is Jollibee's way of making buhay Jollibee lalong sumasarap in every Jollibee visit you make.

n' Win
NESTEA

WINNER Angeline Concha could not contain her happiness with her recent streak of luck. 'I told my neighbors about this and even encouraged them to go to Jollibee to find out for themselves.'

DEVELOPMENTAL PEDIATRICIAN IN MANILA

Dr. Anna Catindig De Ocampo MD, a practicing physician in South Carolina specializing in Developmental Pediatrics, recently conducted a lecture in handling special children at the Career Center & Training (CCAT) where she is vice president and member of the board of directors. A graduate of the De La Salle University-College of Medicine and married to Dr. Joel de Ocampo, she is connected with the Children's Hospital, Greenville Hospital System in South Carolina. De Ocampo joined her family during her father Augusto B. Catindig's induction as president-elect of the Rotary Club of Paranaque Area 64. Shown from left is Catindig with TV host/celebrity Cory Quirino, Dr. Angel Catindig Manlapaz DMD, CCAT president, Julie Catindig and De Ocampo. CCAT has started new classes in professional caregiving and senior caregiver courses for the United States and United Kingdom Sept. 15. For more information, call 550-1592, 550-1593 or visit the Center at 4298 B. Emilia corner Bautista Streets, Palanan, Makati City.



PROUD JOURNALIST

Author and journalist Rolando E. Villacorte smilingly shows off a copy of his recently launched book 'The Art of Corporate Grabbing, A True Story of Greed, Corruption and Betrayal', which took more than five years to produce. The book, Villacorte's fifth, was one of the titles exhibited by New Day Publishers at the just-concluded Manila International Book Fair at Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Early hotel inquiries noted for corporate Christmas parties

THIS early, many companies are already making hotel inquiries and reservations for their Christmas parties and other related occasions.

This was noted by the City Garden Hotel-Makati, which has been experiencing a deluge of inquiries since the start of September.

"These companies seem to be in a rush to get a reservation for a specific date and the best deal for their Christmas celebration," said general manager Johnny Rios.

"Thus, City Garden Hotel-Makati has come up with various Christmas party packages to suit their specific requirements and give them the best value for their money," Rios added.

The party packages vary in price depending on the menu, but all cover a minimum of 70 persons and include such amenities as candle light with Christmas trimmings, in-house sound system, 25-track CD player/changer, VCD/VHS player, TV monitor, podium with microphone, and white chair cover.

The package price ranges from P45,500+ for Fiesta Filipino and Fisherman's Fare, to P47,950+ for Western Menu and P52,500+ for City Garden Menu.

The Fiesta Filipino menu consists of favorite Filipino foods like *sinigang na tanguigui sa miso, kare-kare, inihaw na tadyang ng baboy, rellenong bangus, pancit sotanghon*, leche flan or buko salad, and assorted native delicacies, to name a few.

The Fisherman's Fare highlights fresh catch like *kinilaw na tanguigui, ginataang tambacol* wrapped in pechay leaves, steamed blue crab, seafood paella, grilled squid or mussels or oysters, corn and carrots, red egg, tomato and onion salad, green mango with shrimp paste, tropical fruits, and assorted cakes, among many others.

The Western Menu covers assorted sausages and cold cuts, grilled beef ribs, roasted spring chicken with peppercorn sauce, grilled pork spareribs, pasta putanesca, corn on the cob, baked pork and beans, mini cheese cake, carrot cake, fresh fruit salad and fruit tarts, and many more.

On the other hand, the City Garden Menu features favorite food from around the world like sushi for appetizer, Greek salad with cream cheese, baked oyster Florentine, seafood thermidor, grilled beef and chicken sausage, pork, lamb, Mongolian barbecue (meat or seafood), and various fresh fruit cutlets, to name a few.

Famous for its affordable luxury and fine dining specialties, the hotel also offers a Christmas dinner gift promo worth only P650+, consisting of family style Minestrone soup or seafood chowder soup, penne putanesca or fettuccine fruta de mare with fresh mussels, clams, squid and shrimp in light creamy sauce, City Garden salad with mozzarella cheese, ham artichokes, black and green olives and lettuce, Waldorf salad, anti pasto, seafood thermidor, choice of roast porkloin or roast chicken, fruit and buco jello, assorted cakes and pastries, and fresh brewed coffee.

Reservations or inquiries can be made by phone at 899-1111, or at domestic toll free number 1-800-101-Garden (427-336).

Known as Metro Manila's first Internet-ready hotel, City Garden is a businessman's hotel whose luxurious Italian-inspired rooms come as low as P950+ on a twin-sharing basis. The hotel has flexible meeting rooms for 10 to 120 persons, complete conference/seminar facilities, meeting packages for as low as P9,750+ per day, a professionally staffed and fully equipped business center, a Le Jardin Restaurant at the 2nd floor, and a Roofdeck Bar & Grill with a Roman-inspired swimming pool and offers a magnificent view of the Makati skyline.

Located at 7870 Makati Avenue in between Kalayaan and Durban streets, City Garden also has a gym, spa with heated whirlpool, sauna, and Jacuzzi.

Informatics creates 'ethical hackers'

THE INTERNATIONAL Council of Electronic Commerce Council Consultants (EC-Council) is a professional organization established in the United States, with headquarters in New York hosting members and affiliates worldwide. With the projected growth of website addresses from about 10 million today to 35 million by 2004, there is a huge increase in demand for qualified Electronic Commerce professionals.

As a result, the EC-Council offers several options for aspiring and practicing E-Commerce professionals to study topics identified as Web industry standard skills for them.

Informatics worldwide has forged a strategic alliance with EC-Council to offer e-business courses and the Certified Ethical Hacker course. The e-business certification courses from the EC-Council combine trainings to give you the solid background necessary to build a successful e-business.

The EC-Council certification is designed to provide the foundation needed by every E-Commerce professional. The EC-Council curriculum is designed for every E-commerce professional seeking a broad range of skills and knowledge needed to build and manage an organization's E-Commerce and to coordinate with other inside and outside sources to accomplish that organization's electronic commerce goals.

There are four certification tracks under the EC-Council accreditation body, and they are: Certified e-Business Associate, Certified e-Business Professional, Certified e-Business Consultant and the Certified Ethical Hacker.

The Certified Ethical Hacker Program certifies individuals in the specific network security discipline of ethical hacking from a vendor-neutral perspective. A Certified Ethical Hacker is a skilled professional who understands and knows how to look for the weaknesses and vulnerabilities in your systems and uses the same knowledge and tools to spot malicious hackers.

The Certified Ethical Hacker certification will significantly benefit security officers, auditors, security professionals, site administrators and anyone concerned with the integrity of the network infrastructure.

For more information, visit www.eccouncil.org or check the Informatics directory of centers at www.informatics.edu.ph, or call 893-4818 or e-mail gramiro@informatics.com.ph. The initial class starts today, Sept. 29.

TRIUMPH'S DIRECT SALES AWARDS TOP DEALERS

Triumph International (Philippines) Inc recently honored its top dealers during its first Trimestral Dealers Assembly (TDA) 2003 held Aug. 17 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Following the highly successful Olympics-inspired TDA event last year, this year's show was a fun-filled entertainment extravaganza and awards ceremony dubbed 'Masaganang Triumph Bayan!' hosted by Janelle So, Paolo Trillo and Hans Montenegro. Highlights included special performances by the Masculados, R&B Prince Jay-R Tootsie Guevara and the Sexbomb Dancers. Established in 1886 in Heubach, Germany, Triumph is the world's leading intimate apparel brand with a global workforce of 36,000 in 150 countries. Triumph established its local franchise Triumph International (Philippines) on March 6, 1974. Shown is Triumph's Million Achievers with (from 6th to 8th from left) sales and marketing director Gary Quemado, retail sales and marketing manager Det de Leon, marketing manager Gus Narciso and direct sales manager Jun Yu (right).

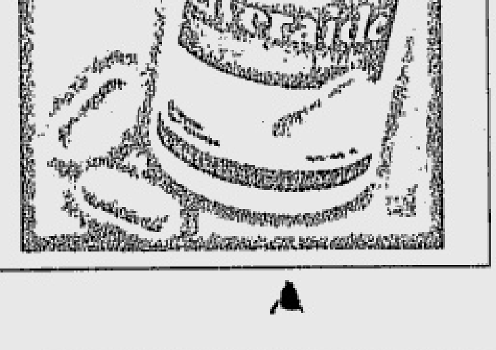
ProductFILES

New health supplement

HERBS and Nature Care Corp (HNC), manufacturer and distributor of nature-based health and beauty products, recently launched its newest product Liveraide at Country Waffles Restaurant in Sgt. Esguerra Street, Quezon City.

Liveraide helps keep the liver strong by cleansing it of impurities that could cause hepatitis B and cirrhosis.

Liveraide is made of Silymarin, a chemical extract from the seed of the milk thistle imported from France, and has long been used in Europe for its medicinal and curative properties. Silymarin has been proven to help promote the growth of new liver cells and keep harmful substances out.



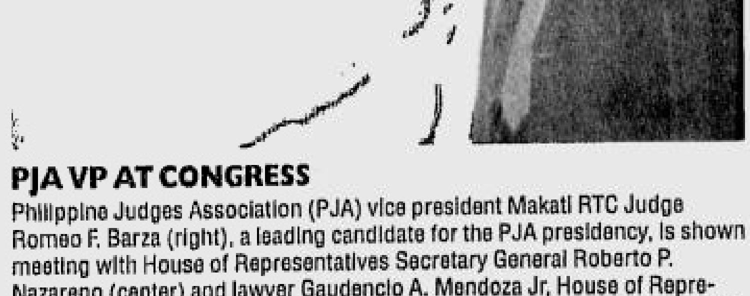
PQPM congress Sept. 30

WITH a relevant theme "Driving the Upturn Through Quality and Productivity", the Philippine Quality and Productivity Movement (PQPM) will have its national congress billed 21st National Quality and Productivity Congress scheduled on Sept. 30 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

The congress will start at 8 a.m. for the registration of delegates representing the captains of industry, CEOs of business enterprises, executives of government agencies, labor organizations, traders and consumers, university administrators, heads of technical and professional organizations, the media, and quality and productivity advocates.

The prime objective of the meet is to build a united effort among the various sectors of society towards quality and productivity improvement to instill in the minds of every delegate the quality and productivity values, and to provide a venue for CEOs to learn from successful companies.

The congress will be capped with the conferment of the Philippine Quality and Productivity Award (PQPA) to an outstanding CEO.



PJA VP AT CONGRESS

Philippine Judges Association (PJA) vice president Makati RTC Judge Romeo F. Barza (right), a leading candidate for the PJA presidency, is shown meeting with House of Representatives Secretary General Roberto P. Nazareno (center) and lawyer Gaudencio A. Mendoza Jr, House of Representatives Deputy Secretary General for Legal Affairs to discuss projects for the benefit of judges nationwide with the assistance of other Representatives.

If David can beat Goliath, so can you

MAPping THE FUTURE

By Franco G. del Rosario

THE TITLE of this article is one of the topics in the upcoming, MAP CEO Conference on November 4th at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The theme this year is "New Ideas to Oust Old Mindsets (A Solution For Tough Times)."

Let us examine the story of David and Goliath and we will be amazed to discover principles that can help us today to succeed personally and in business.

David is an ancestor of Jesus and described in the Bible "as a man after God's own heart." He was the youngest son in a large family and guarded the family sheep. In those days, an army often avoided the high cost of battle by pitting its strongest warrior against the strongest warrior of the enemy. This avoided great bloodshed because the winner of the fight was considered the winner of the battle. The armies of Israel and Philistia faced each other for 40 days without one side attacking the other.

David saw that Goliath's words were enough to bring fear to the Israelites. When David volunteered to fight Goliath, even King Saul and David's brothers ridiculed him. The army saw a giant standing in front of them and David saw a mere mortal, whom he knew he could defeat with God's help.

David took his sling and ran towards the giant, put his hand in his bag to pick up a stone, the size of a tennis ball, slung it and struck Goliath in the head. He fell on his face to the ground. David ran to Goliath, stood over him and cut his head off with the giant's sword.

The commercial world has developed standards that we have to measure up to. We are constantly bombarded by media and advertisements on how we need to look, how we need to dress, what we should own, what we should buy, if we want to fit in. We all have financial worries, and pressures.

Everyone told David that he would fail and expected him to give in and bow to the Goliath. We too are expected to give in and bow to the "giants" in our lives.

Rationalization

The Webster's Dictionary defines "rationalize" as "to devise self-satisfying but incorrect explanations." Some may tell themselves, "well, maybe just this once I will bow." Sadly, bowing to pressure more often than not, involves compromising one's values.

Many people erroneously think compromise is the only answer; or all too quickly compromise to save time and effort. They fail to see that compromise just "hooks" them so that later, it becomes easier to do it again.

How to handle pressure

We all have different levels of tolerance for pressure. Let us go over the lessons from that may help us in our lives today:

Lesson 1—David's early decision not to bow.

He decided that he was not going to be affected by whatever Goliath wanted to say and that he was standing for God. Criticism couldn't stop David.

Lesson 2—David took action.

While the rest of the army stood around, David knew the importance of taking action. With God to fight for him, there was no reason to wait. While many were discouraging David, he continued to do what he knew was right. By doing what was right, he knew he was pleasing God, whose opinion matters the most.

Lesson 3—David's fellowship was with God.

David essentially told the king not to worry about him as he has a history of God showing up in his battles. God had never failed David because all he wanted was for God's will to come to pass in his life. He did not care about the rejection of man, as he was only concerned with pleasing the only one that would never reject him—God.

Lesson 4—David had a vision.

David's vision was for all the earth to know there is a God in Israel. This allowed David to look at his situation from God's point of view and led him to take a stand. David knew the strength that allowed him to stand was based on his total dependence with God.

Lesson 5—David took a stand for God.

It did not matter to David who was upset with him when he refused to bow. Would we rather stand for God now, or stand before God after a life of bowing?

To say, we should stand for what is right at all times is easier said than done. So, how did David do it? David looked only to God and not to man. He kept his eyes and focus on God. He positioned himself towards God and put his faith in God.

Conclusions

1) Let us make David's rock a symbol that represents the "giants" in our lives that need to come down.

2) If we view our seemingly impossible situations from God's point of view, this may help us put "giant" problems in perspective. When we see clearly, we may be able to fight more effectively.

3) Sometimes we become so obsessed with material things or putting up an image to the point that we forget who we are and what we stand for.

4) In most cases, bowing today makes it harder to stand tomorrow. Every time we bow it gets easier and easier to bow.

5) Let us become the generation that will stand for God in all we do personally and in business.

(The author is chair of Sharexchange Brokers and Managing Consultant of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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15th National Quality Forum

October 2-3, 2003
Hotel Intercontinental Manila.
organized by the
Philippine Society for Quality
in partnership with
Ateneo de Manila Graduate School of Business

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Messages

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Society for Quality (PSQ), and the participants to the 15th National Quality Forum.

I am happy to note that organizations like the PSQ remain steadfast in their commitment to propagate quality that will enhance the competitiveness of industries and our country as a whole. I laud your efforts as administrator of the Philippine Quality Award for the private sector. This occasion with the theme, "Innovating for Performance Excellence" is a good opportunity to share best practices and inspires others to aim for excellence in their respective endeavors.

My Administration will continue to support the PSQ in strengthening its advocacy to build stronger quality management programs for both big and small enterprises. I hope that the PSQ will give its full support to the higher goals we have set for our country and people.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

Welcome to our 15th National Quality Forum!

The theme, "Innovating for Performance Excellence" has inspired us to tap senior executives to give their experiences and insights on various organizational fields where they have seen innovation play a key role. We have distinguished speakers from government, the academe and the private sectors as well as motivational speakers to provide us fresh perspectives on personal excellence.

Gary Hamel said that the most important business issues of our times is finding a way to build companies where innovation is both radical and systemic. I think our speakers in this Forum will show how radical thinking has been put in the basics of doing business.

We hope you will find more than just a lesson or two that you can bring back to your respective organizations. Together, let us multiply the interest and passion to achieve performance excellence in the interest of further strengthening our respective companies and our country as a whole.

To all our sponsors, participants, and volunteer members of the work committees, our sincerest gratitude for supporting this Forum!

Mabuhay!

CYNTHIA J. CABASAG

Innovation is an extremely important topic and approach today and becoming even more and more necessary for organizational as well as individual success. The world economy and competition are demanding, more and more, that we not only significantly improve but that we creatively find new ways to do things. As Albert Einstein said "If we do the same things the same way we get the same results, we need new approaches to overcome the problems that were created by the approaches that we use today".

With that in mind, the objective of the Conference is to learn new ways to do things and new approaches to develop new things - INNOVATION!

My best wishes to all of you, that you learn new ways to be creative and innovative to add value to your organizations and to yourselves.

Chuck Aubrey

Chuck Aubrey,
President
Asia Pacific Quality Organization
and Honorary Member of Philippines Society for Quality

Conference Theme: Innovating for Performance Excellence

"Innovating for Performance Excellence" simply means being able to exceed the expectations of the customers. To remain competitive, both domestically and globally, people and organizations must constantly innovate on the quality of their processes, products,and services.

This year's NQF shows you how to develop quality and productivity improvement plans which are consistent with the Philippine Quality Award. Using newly-found approaches and techniques, the participants will be able to plan for real and lasting improvements and innovations.

When used properly, quality improvement by "Innovating for Performance Excellence" can be the most potent weapon in any corporate arsenal as it can improve market share, create customers who are more brand loyal, increase productivity, and cut costs.

The NQF is open to the general public with special rates of P6,950 for members and P7,450 for non-members. For details and other inquiries, call 899-5925, e-mail psq@csi.com.ph.

Day 1 : October 2, 2003

7:30 - 8:00	Registration
8:00 - 8:30	Opening of Exhibits
8:30 - 8:35	Philippine National Anthem
8:35 - 8:40	Invocation Meralco Foundation Choir
8:40 - 8:50	Opening of the Convention Ms. Angelica C. Fraginal PSQ VP-Internal & NQF Chairperson
8:50 - 9:00	Introduction of Keynote Speaker Ms. Cynthia J. Cabasag PSQ President
9:00 - 9:30	Keynote Address Dr. Jesus P. Estanislao President & CEO Institute of Corporate Directors
9:30 - 9:35	Recognition of Speaker
9:35 - 10:00	Break / Exhibit
10:00 - 11:00	"Sustaining Success Through Tough Times" Mr. Peter D. Maquera VP for Corporate Development BPI Technologies, Inc.
11:00 - 12:00	"Strengthening Organizational Performance & Competitiveness through Strategic Planning" Hon. Secretary Romulo L. Neri Secretary Socio-Economic Planning and Director-General National Economic Development Authority
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch / Exhibit
1:00 - 1:15	Entertainment Number Old School Acapella Band
1:15 - 1:30	Juran Awards Ceremony
1:30 - 2:30	"Look What's New Robotics. . . Learning by Making": Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sason Chief Executive Officer Felta Multi-Media Inc.
2:30 - 3:30	"Mission PET: Making A Difference Ms. Ma. Milagros Y. Llorin In the Environment" VP & Corporate Affairs Director Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils., Inc.
3:30 - 4:00	Break / Exhibit
4:00 - 5:15	"Developing A Culture of Personal Excellence" Mr. Francis J. Kong President & CEO Funworks, Inc.
5:15 - 5:30	Integration / Raffle Ms. Ms. Teresa U. Bagaman PSQ VP-External Affairs

Moderators: Morning - Jun Bueno/Sharon Chao
Afternoon - Melai Chua/Odze Casis

Day 2 : October 3, 2003

8:00 - 8:05	Invocation
8:05 - 8:30	Recap of Day 01 Ms. Noly T. Cayabyab PSQ Trustee
8:30 - 9:30	"Gearing up for Global Competitiveness Through Innovation: Does the Philippines Have What It Takes?" Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas Dean, School of Economics University of Asia and the Pacific
9:30 - 10:00	Break/Exhibit
10:00 - 11:00	"Assuring Quality in the Academe" Dr. Conrado E. Iñigo, Jr. AVP-Tech & Dev't/QMR Centro Escolar University
11:00 - 12:00	"Uncovering the Innovative Value of Human Resource" Ms. Tita D. Puangco Chairman & CEO Ancilla Enterprise Dev't Consulting
12:00 - 1:00	Break / Exhibit
1:00 - 1:15	Video Message
1:15 - 2:15	"New Rules, New Tools for Process Management" Mr. Jewellord P. Peralta First VP for Information Technology PhilAmerican Life & Gen. Insurance Co.
2:15 - 3:15	"Innovative Packaging: A Medium to Growing a Business" Mr. Abner S. Villahermosa AVP - Packaging Technology San Miguel Packaging Products
3:15 - 3:45	Break / Exhibit
3:45 - 4:45	"Achieving Work Life Balance" Mr. Anthony H. Pangilinan President & Chief Trainer BusinessWorks, Inc.
4:45 - 5:00	Integration & Closing Mr. Gerardo V. Cabochan, Jr. PSQ Trustee

Moderators: Morning - Art Cabigas/Fanny Villanueva
Afternoon - Rey Elbo/Tess Libiran

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What is PSQ?

The Philippine Society for Quality (PSQ) is the sole and exclusive private sector administrator of the Philippine Quality Award, the highest level of national recognition for exemplary organizational performance in the country. The PQA is patterned after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award of the United States and Europe.

The Society, in collaboration with Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) helps promote quality excellence by providing an internationally comparable framework through the following major approaches:

1) Advocacy, education, and training
2) Networking and integration
3) Innovation and benchmarking

PSQ is a non-stock, non-profit organization established in 1969 with the help of the Productivity Development Center of DAP and 64 charter corporate and individual members.

The group started with its former name -- Philippine Society for Quality Control and laid down the groundwork for setting up a quality control organization that serves, up to this day, as a catalyst for action in the application of quality management in workplace settings.

At present, the Society has grown leaps and bounds with its strong and committed 350-plus members and has continued to organize symposia, dialogues, linkages with government agencies and private companies and the annual National Quality Forum - now on its 15th year.

ADVT

How do you build an office wardrobe on a budget? How do you open a bottle of champagne?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. I start a new job with a major multi-national firm next month. My problem is I do not have a lot of money to spend on suits. Do you have any suggestions on how I should start building my office wardrobe on a budget?

A. I have made a list below of the basic wardrobe you will need to start building your work attire. You can mix and match these items. Just make sure that everything you buy is plain, no prints or patterns. That way it will be easier to mix and match and at the same time people will not notice that you repeat your clothes. You can also use accessories to change your look from time to time without buying new clothes.

1. A simple flat-front black pant.
2. A straight skirt hemmed just below the knee is flattering.
3. A dress, fitted and sleeveless, that can be worn with a cardigan or a blazer.
4. A basic blouse; try a bright color that suits you.
5. A cardigan: Black is always chic and easy to wear.
6. A neutral blazer, perhaps in blue, beige or black.
7. A crisp white shirt always looks smart.
8. A classic well tailored business suit in navy or dark beige.
9. A classic shoe: A black pump with an elegant heel will go with all of the above.
10. A black bag: With black shoes, it's best to go with a black bag; look for a simple style that's not too oversized.

Q. Could you please explain the correct way to open a bottle of champagne? Is it true that one should let the cork fly out and that it should make a sound once opened?

A. Since a champagne bottle contains a lot of pressure, it is extremely dangerous to let the cork fly out as it will definitely hurt someone in the room. Below is a guide on how to properly open a bottle of champagne.

First of all you need to remember that champagne is served chilled. Take the chilled bottle and remove the top foil and the wire with one hand while holding the bottle firmly with the other. Once the wire is removed, turn the cork with your right hand. When the cork has moved out by about a half inch, tilt the bottle slightly with your left hand while the right is used as a brake holding the cork firmly to prevent it from flying. Keep turning the cork gently until a "pfftt" is heard. No more noise should be heard. The slight tilting of the bottle will prevent the foam from coming out of the bottle. Do not let the cork fly out to the ceiling.

Email etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com. Names of senders will not be published.

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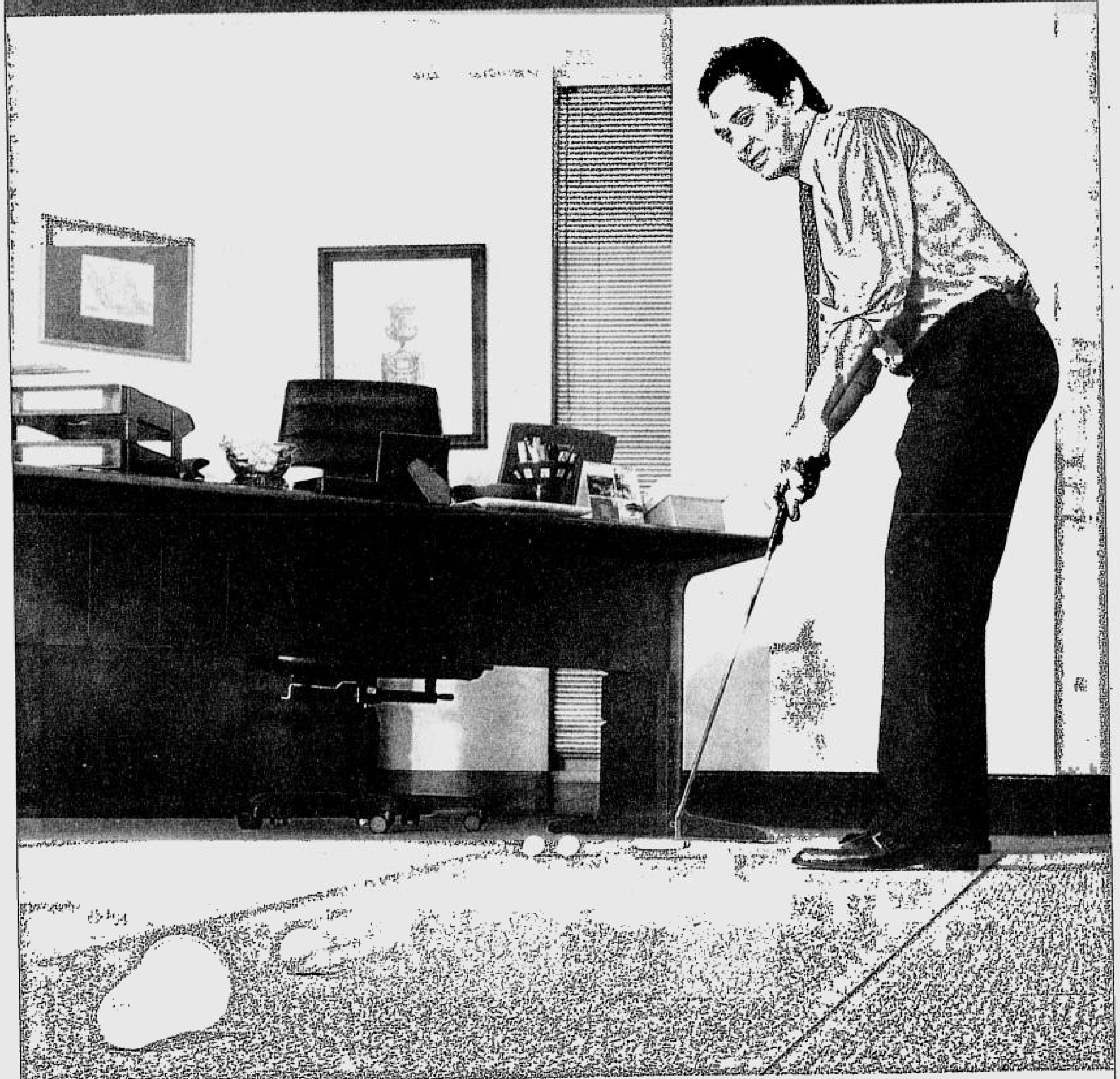

Created to be a true golf community, Ayala Greenfield Estates is designed with your game in mind. Here you have an environment that helps you improve and enjoy your golf. Build your dream home here and live in a neighborhood that loves the game as much as you do. Plus, you automatically get one share at the Golf & Leisure Club. Ayala Greenfield Estates. Go ahead, live the game.

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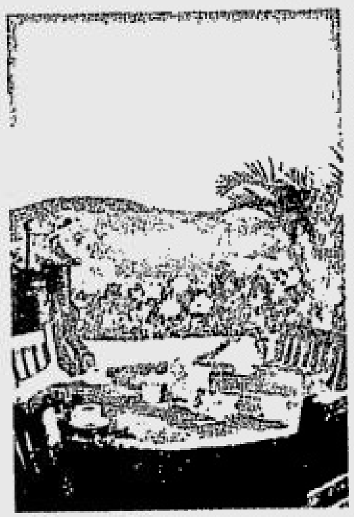
Designing a golf course is not all talent, ingenuity or passion for the game. Sometimes, it takes a unique ability to listen to the natural surroundings of the course to successfully sculpt it to perfection. That was how golf architect Robert Trent Jones, Jr. defined his latest work.

The builder of more than 200 golf courses in 38 countries on six continents was tapped to develop an 18-hole, all-weather course of Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna.



Ayala Greenfield Estates is considered the country's only true golf community because unlike other developments, residents are entitled to own a golf share for every lot owned. This means that every lot owner, for a minimal activation fee, can truly own a piece of this world-class golf course and experience golf right in their own backyard. Imagine waking up late in the morning and teeing off right away for a full day of golf.

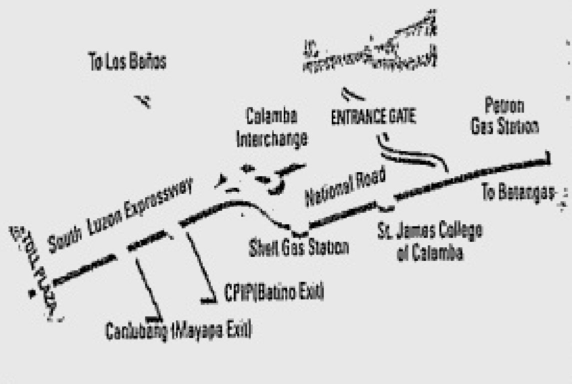
Another reason making this subdivision a true golf community is its atmosphere. The cool breeze that wafts down Mt. Makiling makes playing on this championship golf course truly a relaxing experience. The scenic views afforded by the gentle Mt. Makiling, the Tagaytay ridge and surrounding Calamba also help form the picturesque backdrop for a perfect day of golf amidst the fairways and greens.

According to Jones, "nature contributes to the excitement and pleasure of playing golf. The natural playing ground becomes a venue for challenging the minds and a 'refuge' for the souls of zealous golfers." Touted as the father of environmental golf design, Jones upholds his long commitment to preserving nature in his design of the Ayala Greenfield Estates course. For example, instead of chopping off sections of one of the prominent hills in the area, the golf course will now be wrapped around its base.

As a residential/golfing destination for the whole family, Jones described Ayala Greenfield Estates as "the only place where golfers and their families can have a great time."

There will be no golf widows or orphans here. Members of the family who are not into the sport will be able to enjoy other world-class facilities within the leisure club like a spa and wellness center, bowling lanes and badminton court, plus a food and beverage facility. Now you can truly enjoy your golf minus the guilt.

Here is the neighborhood that you've always dreamed about! Ayala Greenfield Estates -- the only true golf community in the country.



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ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

INDAY BADIDAY. End of an era

'Inday was a funny lady'

By Nini Valera

UNLIKE the show biz world in which she ruled as queen of entertainment talk shows, Inday Badiday's wake at the Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park in Makati last Saturday night was a peaceful gathering of loved ones and close friends.

Television talk show host Lolit Solis was one of them.

"I am so depressed," Solis told INQUIRER Entertainment. "I was teary-eyed earlier when they ran clippings of her in her various shows."

Solis had been one of Inday's protégés whose show biz career Inday helped shape, first as an entertainment and then as talk show host. Their friendship spanned more than three decades, and Solis stood as godmother to Inday's youngest daughter, Clara, 17.

The usually flamboyant Solis was subdued when she hugged her godchild tight, patting her on the back and murmuring words of consolation to the girl.

Later, she told INQUIRER Entertainment, "Inday and I would talk about anything and everything. She's very funny. She always saw something funny in any situation, even in the tragedies in her life. We have known each other for the longest time, through ups and downs. I am still so depressed about her passing."

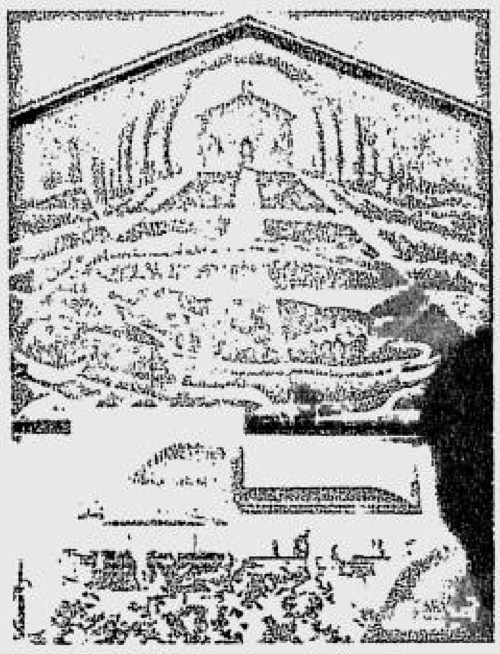
She recalled how Inday once "tutored" her about how to act like a lady during a visit to South Korea in the '80s, when Inday's late father, Nicanor Jimenez, had been the Philippine ambassador to that country.

"She lectured me about my behavior and warned me that I must not embarrass her dad," Solis said. "But during a Mass which we attended, she fell asleep because she had too much wine to drink earlier. The following day, she couldn't face her dad!"

Expect the unexpected with Inday, Solis said.

"Like how she would always find something to laugh about even if she was talking to the grimmest person on earth," she added.

INDAY/ C3



FAMILY, FRIENDS and protégés gather at Inday's wake. RUDY ESPERAS

WITH her talk show guests Kris Aquino and Kris' former boyfriend, Robin Padilla. Kris' very first appearance on Inday's show had sent ratings soaring.

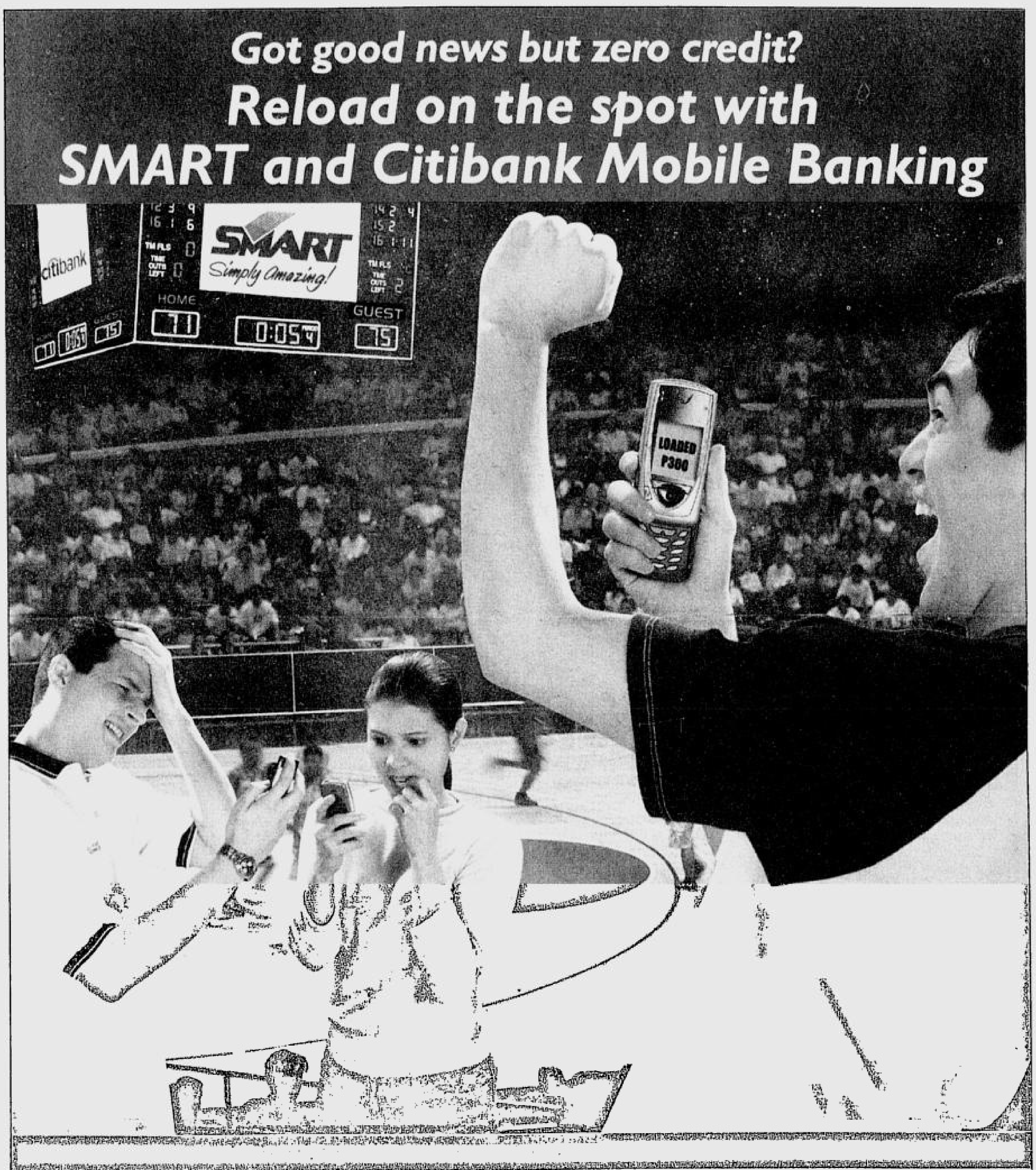
DID YOU KNOW...

Young star **Patrick Garcia**, of the Sunday afternoon drama "Tabing Ilog" on ABS-CBN, was seen with a date who's not from show biz last Friday night at Hotshots along Pearl Drive in Ortigas Center. Patrick was in a yellow shirt and denims, while his date was in a white, tight shirt and denims also. Patrick's date was a pretty young thing, a big change from his former girlfriend who was 12 years older than the young actor.

VIDAL of Freestyle EGAY MONTANA

Jinky's free and stylish show and tell

/C2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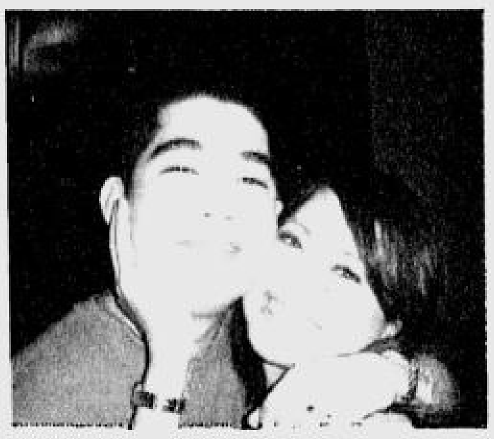
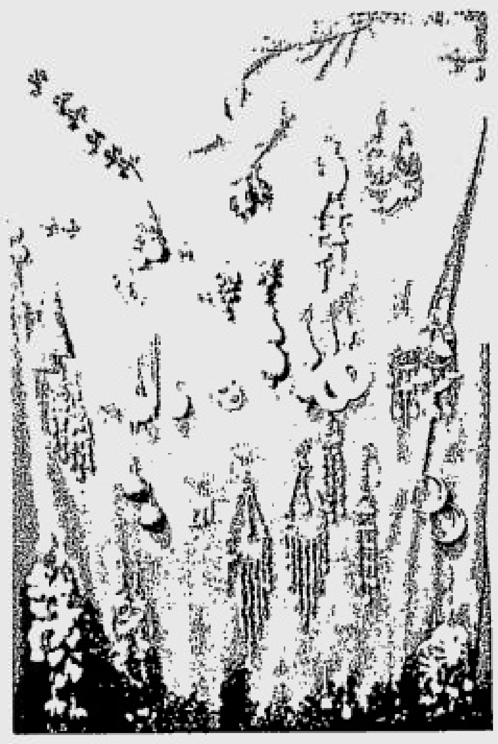
BOLD AND BRA, for the Araneta Coliseum concert

SUNDRESSES AT NIGHT, because they're cooler and have no garters to speak

DRIP DRY. This leather pair, also for big venues only, is washed and hung without wringing.



CHEEK TO CHEEK with husband Tat Suzara



THE WALLS have earrings in her closet

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Jinky's free, stylish show and tell

By Marinel R. Cruz

FREESTYLE lead singer Jinky Vidal and guitarist Tat Suzara finally tied the knot last Aug. 18 after living together for several years.

Jinky, the only female member of the seven-year-old band, is four months on her way to becoming a mom.

From a two-bedroom apartment in a Parañaque City village, the couple decided to rent a four-bedroom bungalow, also in Parañaque, so Jinky could have her own dressing room and Tat could have a place for his computer and hobbies.

"I needed space for my stuff, while Tat needed a place where he could build his miniature planes," says the singing native of Davao.

"This place is what I've always pictured in my mind," she says as she ushers INQUIRER Entertainment into a room overflowing with racks and racks of clothes, shoes and bags.

Freestyle was born in Davao in 1996, when former First Circle members Jinky, Tat and Gerald Banzon decided to form another group. Jinky became the front liner and lead vocalist, while Tat played lead guitar and Gerald played the drums. Years later, Tat's cousin Top joined the band, together with Carlo Tapia on bass and Nikki Cabardo on keyboards.

Today, Freestyle is one of the few bands enjoying success not only in the live concert scene but also in recording. It has filled big concert venues, the most recent of which was the Araneta Coliseum, where it performed with the Side A band in a Valentine concert this year.

Because Jinky is a performer, she prefers wearing blouses made of flimsy fabric. "I perspire a lot when I'm onstage," she says, "so I make sure I wear clothes that make me feel cool."

She is also constantly looking for clothes with unique designs and comfortable fit, like the peach blouse that her manager Wyngard Tracy bought for her when they went shopping in Beverly Hills last year.

"I sing and move around the stage a lot," says Jinky. "The last thing I want to think about is whether my clothes give me enough cover while I'm performing."

She says the band is busy preparing for its "One on One" US-Canadian tour, again with Side A, this October. They will be visiting Filipino communities in Chicago, Florida, Houston, New Jersey, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco in the US and Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto in Canada.

"I'll be bringing an all-new wardrobe to the tour," says Jinky. "I already bought materials and had a designer copy some of my favorite stuff here."

She will bring only a few items of clothes to the tour and will simply mix and match them, but she will never leave behind her favorite jacket, which she says matches all her clothes.

She says that unlike audiences in the Philippines, the crowds abroad prefer listening to original compositions, like the Freestyle hits "So Slow," "Before I Let You Go," "Till I Found You" and "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang?"

The October tour will be Jinky's last before she takes a break and gives birth to her first baby.

WELL-HEELED. She wears very high heels even when she moves a lot on stage.

Photos by Egay Montaña

"I want to be able to rest fully and take care of my little one," she says. "But we still have regular gigs at the Tavern on the Square, Conway's and Suburbia."

Concert costumes. "I wore this coat at the Araneta Coliseum during the Valentine concert with Side A. You won't catch me wearing this anywhere else. I paired it with a bra of the same color. *Malayo naman ang* audience so okay *lang*. Our manager's designer-friend brought clothes for us for the show, and I picked out this one.

"I also wore this pair of checkered leather pants in the Araneta show. Washing it is tricky. I don't wring it. I just hang it until it dries. I've not worn it since Araneta because if you wear something at a venue as big as Araneta, you don't want to wear it in your normal gigs."

Boots. "I go for really pointed ones. I have about a dozen pairs. My brother bought my latest pair for me in August, from Steve Madden. I like boots because I prefer wearing pants over skirts. My favorite is the beige pair from Candies because it can go with pants or skirts of any color. *Ilang beses na itong nakatuntong ng* Araneta. I bought this at Macy's in New York."

Wedges. "These are my favorite sandals, from Shoes Salon. What's good about wedges is that they're wide so you don't have to worry about tripping and hurting yourself."

High-heeled sandals. "This looks really sexy on me. I'm very particular with the color so I buy mostly browns and beiges. My shoes have to match most of my clothes. If not, *sayang*."

Slip-ons. "The band is always on the go, like when we had our US Tour last year. I make sure to bring flats like these black ones from Cole Haan. They are very sturdy."

Blouses. "This peach sleeveless blouse is memorable because our manager, Wyngard Tracy, gave it to me. He took us to Beverly Hills in California to shop for clothes we could wear here. I like the fabric and the design. I wore it during our show at Onstage last May.

"I like wearing long-sleeved blouses with flimsy fabrics but this is the one I like the most. I bought this in Hong Kong. Blouses like this are good if you want to look sexy, but don't want to show too much skin."

Jackets. "I easily get cold so I make sure to bring a sweatshirt or a jacket to a gig. I take the jacket off when it's show time. This beige jacket is my favorite because it goes well with any kind of clothes. It's not too warm because its lining is cool."

Scarves. "I wear scarves to accentuate clothes that are too plain to be worn on stage or in a pictorial. I was having second thoughts when I bought this fur in LA because it was too expensive. But I said, this was my reward for working hard."

Bags. "I go for big bags that can hold all my stuff. I hate it when I have to leave some of my personal stuff at home because they won't fit in my bag anymore. This Ralph Lauren is my favorite bag because the design goes with whatever clothes you're wearing."

Belts. "I like belts that are wide and colorful. These belts are ideal for women with wide hips. *Nadadaya ang balakang*. This orange belt from Linea Italia is my favorite because it stands out. I normally match it with short black dresses or mini skirts."

Undergarments. "Victoria's Secret is my favorite brand. I like the way it clings to my skin. I also buy other brands, but I go for Victoria's Secret underwear because I can use it for a long time. Other brands don't even last a year. When I like a particular bra, I make sure to buy panties of the same design.

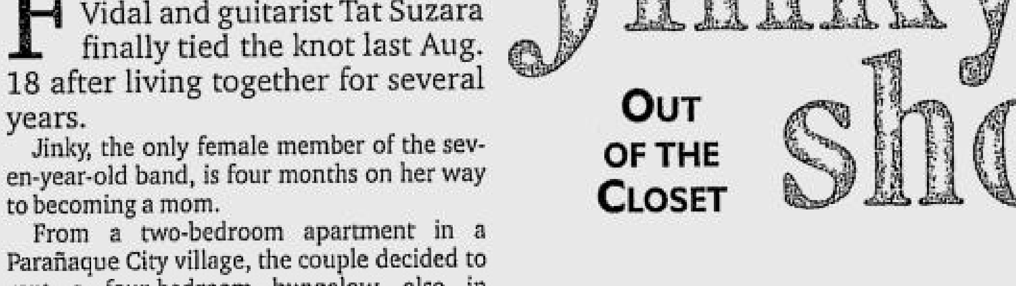
"I wear strapless bras when I perform so I can move freely. I don't want to appear self-conscious on stage."

Jeans. "I prefer stretchable jeans. I like the way this pair hug my hips. I normally pair it with my favorite boots and one of the tank tops I bought abroad."

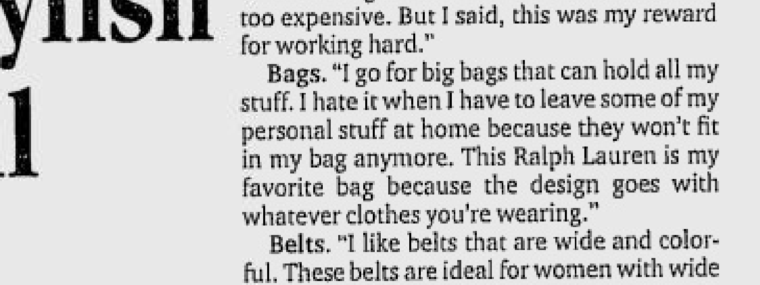
Accessories. "I bought most of my earrings and necklaces in Greenhills. I wear dangling earrings only when I perform, but on normal days, just the studded ones. I hang my earrings on my closet door because they get out of shape if I put all of them in one jewelry box."

Head wear. "I bought a lot of bonnets in Davao. I go there every four or five months.

JINKY'S/C3



POINTED REFERENCE. She likes boots with sharp toes.



BIGGER IS BETTER, as far as her bags are concerned.

Relevant humor and comic catharsis

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER more than 10 years, Whoopi Goldberg is acting in a new TV sitcom, "Whoopi," showing on NBC.

To her credit, Whoopi, who is also the comedy series' executive producer, is making sure that it has more than just belly laughs, giggles and snorts going for it.

In the show, she plays a former singer who has shifted to running a small hotel in New York City. Unlike other female lead characters in sitcoms, Whoopi's Mavis Raye is much less than perfect. She has to cope with menopause, a smoking problem, and topical situations almost as fresh as the evening news.

For instance, her sidekick in the series is an Iranian handyman who is constantly being mistaken for an Arab—and a terrorist.

Mavis' brother is also unique because he has a white girlfriend, thus enabling the show to bring up issues related to interracial unions. And the sitcom also mines Americans' other fears for laughs or satirical insights.

"Whoopi" should be credited for going for relevant humor, and trying to provide comic catharsis for viewers' fears and biases.

Let's hope that the viewing public rewards its extra initiative with its loyal viewership.

For Whoopi's part, she's excited about playing a character with so many flaws. At her age (she's 47), she wants to go beyond the usual escapism and present characters as real people, or vivid approximations thereof. Would that viewers were as adventurous and engaged.

'Actually' overload

OUR LITTLE campaign against the generally excessive and meaningless use of "actually" on TV (and off, for that matter) has made some people use the word more judiciously.

They now remind themselves that the use of "actually" shouldn't be resorted to just to sound trendy, or *sosyal*, or to give us time to think of what to say next, but that it *actually* means something (emphasis, underscoring, revelation of something relatively unknown or unexpected, etc.)

Unfortunately, many people still overuse the word with bemusing profligacy.

The most profligate display we've heard this year involved a beauty pageant contestant who was interviewed on TV last month.

The interview was so instructive and cautionary in terms of "actual overload" that we tried to jot it down verbatim as it was being conducted.

We're sharing key excerpts with you, to show how the use of "actually" has become so senseless and excessive in these parts:

Interviewer: How many girls are competing in the pageant this year?

Contestant: Actually, we're 24.

Interviewer: What made you decide to join this contest?

Contestant: Actually, because of my friend. Actually, he's with the staff of the pageant. Actually, I didn't really want to join before, he just convinced me.

Interviewer: What are you expected to do as contestants in this competition?

Contestant: Actually, we will have many activities.

Interviewer: Are you enjoying yourself?

Contestant: Actually, I'm *kinakabahan*. Oh, my God!

Interviewer: What have you done to prepare yourself for this beauty pageant, to improve your chances, things like that?

Contestant: Actually, as of now, I go to the gym.

This is a verbatim transcription (scout's honor), so it accurately shows how bad the problem has become. Let's hope that you try to eliminate the excessive use of "actually" from your own speech, on *and* off the TV screen.

Musical celebration

BALLET Philippines, the Philippine Madrigal Singers and the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra are collaborating for the first time in a concert aptly titled "Icons" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Oct. 3, 4 and 5 (evening performances at 8 p.m. and matinees at 2 p.m.). Call Ballet Philippines at 551-1003 or visit www.ballet.com.ph.

The three acclaimed performing companies will perform together in music and dance pieces like "Carmina Burana," "Bahay Kubo Atbp." and "Classical Symphony Op. 25."

"Carmina Burana's" music (by Carl Orff) was based on 24 poems by Johann Andreas Schmeller. Alice Reyes set Orff's music to dance, and the piece was premiered at the CCP in 1974.

Prokofief's "Classical Symphony No. 25" finds neo-classical expression in Michael Vernon's choreography, while "Bahay Kubo Atbp." is Tony Fabella's lighthearted view of Filipino life, based on well-loved native folk songs.

Musical comedy show

A MUSICAL comedy show topbilled by Gladys and the Boxers with K will be held at Klownz Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 1 and 15. Guest performers on Oct. 1 are Toni Gonzaga, Paolo Ballesteros and Diana Zubiri.

'Kanser'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation presents Jomar Fleras' "Kanser" on Oct. 3, 4 and 5 (at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.) at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Vito Cruz, Manila. Lead players include Noel Rayos, Kimberly Diaz and Roeder Camañag.

FORMER Justice Secretary Harriet Demetriou pays her last respects.

RUDY ESPERAS

HBO film on broken baseball record, broken hearts opens tomorrow

SHOW TIME

WHAT does America expect from its heroes? What price celebrity?

In the summer of 1961, New York Yankees superstars Roger Maris and Mickey Mantle chased one of baseball's most hallowed records: Babe Ruth's 1927 single-season mark of 60 home runs.

That story is now an HBO movie, "61*," with Billy Crystal as director and executive producer.

Crystal is a die-hard Yankee fan. He had wanted to make this movie since he was 8, the first time he came to Yankee Stadium in 1956. When Cyrstal was 13, Maris hit the 61st homer and Crystal has had "a love affair with the Yankees and baseball ever since."

Crystal later became a close friend of his childhood hero, Mantle, in the mid-'70s, a relationship that lasted until Mantle's death in 1995. Crystal said, "Mickey once said to me, 'If they ever do a story about my life, I want you to be involved.'"

Maris, an earnest and straitlaced player considered to be one of the best right-fielders in the game, lacked the personal flair and media savvy necessary to win the support of either fans or sportswriters, while the hard-living and often-injured Mantle continued to reign as baseball's crown prince.

In the spotlight of the media and at the mercy of public opinion, Maris and Mantle paid a high personal price for doing what they did best. They faced mounting pressure that threatened to turn what should have been a season of triumph into a nightmare.

Their pursuit of Ruth was one of the most controversial in baseball history. Maris received threats, Mantle drank and Ford Frick, the commissioner of baseball, made a controversial decision.

In 1961, baseball expanded from the long-standing 154-game schedule, under which Ruth played, to the now-standard 162 games. As a result, Frick declared late in the season that an asterisk would accompany the record if a player broke Ruth's record after 154 games.

Maris hit the famous 61st home run on the last day of the season, hence the HBO movie's title, "61*." It was not until 1991 that the qualifier on Maris' achievement was lifted.

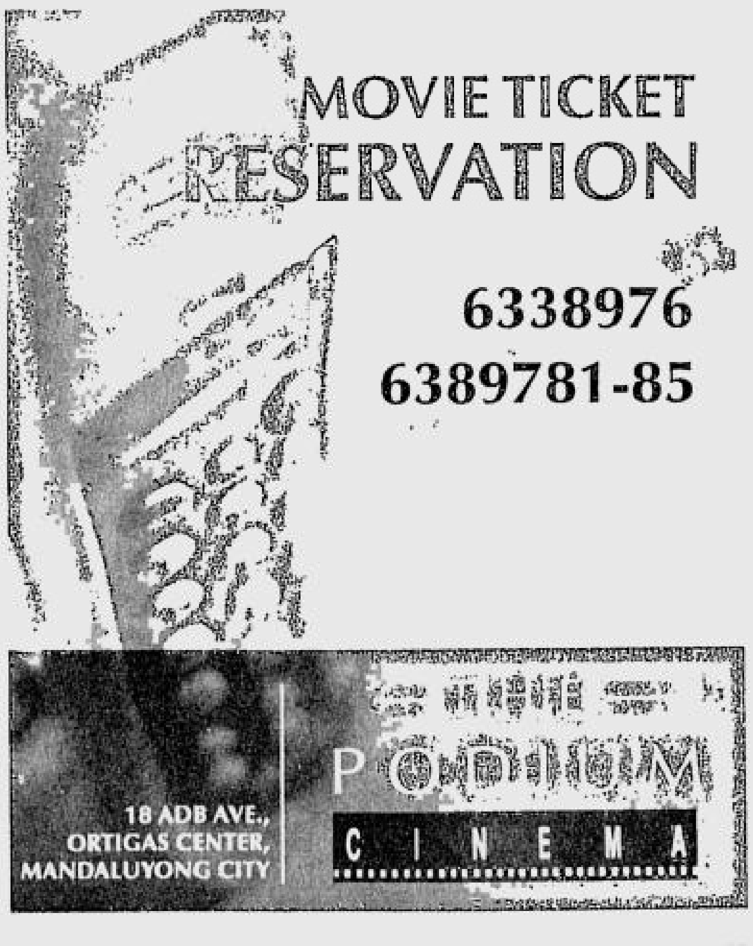
"61*" won rave reviews. Wall Street Journal praised "61*" as a "superb . . . smart and sensitive" film. Entertainment Weekly called it "smashing" and said "'61*' provocatively illustrates how pop culture demands celebrities to provide entertainment both on and off the job." New York Times referred to "61*" as "certainly a memorable drama . . . This film is about more than a broken record. It's about a broken heart. Watch it, and yours may break, too."

Six-time Emmy winner Crystal directs Thomas Jane ("Dreamcatcher") as Mantle and Barry Pepper ("Saving Private Ryan") as Maris in the HBO Original Movie, "61*."

The film is based on a script by first-time Hank Steinberg and was filmed in Detroit and Los Angeles.

"61*" earned 12 Emmy nominations, including best director and made-for-TV movie, and won two Emmys. Pepper also won a Golden Globe nomination for best actor for "61*."

Catch the Asian premiere of "61*" tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. on HBO.



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'Inday was a funny . . .'

From page C3

Another of Inday's protégés is writer Anselle Beluso, who has known the talk show host for more than 25 years. The last time Beluso spoke to Inday was two days before she was rushed to the hospital last August.

"She took me under her wing," he said. "She liked me to guest in her shows, Cristy Fermin and me, because we always asked the sharpest questions.

"Inday gave me several breaks in my career, if you could call it a career. I was then a movie reporter, then I became a fan magazine editor. One time, she told me that I should grow roots. She took me under her wing and I became a writer for TV and would occasionally direct her shows. But her first love had always been radio."

Inday's former UP high classmate, Josie Vergel de Dios, had lost touch with Inday and had not seen her since third year high.

"I was new and she was one of the friendliest in class," said De Dios. "*Kalog*. She was so much fun. She loved ballet so much that when she crossed her legs, her toes were always pointed at the floor."

She said Inday had never attended any of their reunions, "but I had to see her again if only to say goodbye."

Fashion designer Frederick Peralta met Inday in the '60s and had since remained a friend.

"She wore a dress I designed for her when she became cover of Panorama magazine," Peralta related. "I can never forget how she staged a fashion show in one of her TV programs in the '80s. I felt elated. There are so many designers but she never forgot me."

No one can forget Inday, especially her kindness, according to longtime *alalay* Tacing Sagayap, 48. She was only 17 when she met Inday.

"I met her because she was a diehard Noranian like myself," Sagayap said in Filipino.

She was referring to the time when Nora Aunor was the biggest star in the industry and Inday was one of the star's most ardent supporters.

"Since then, I had been assisting her in most things during her shows," Sagayap said. "Wherever she was, I would be with her. She helped me a lot. She took care of me and my family. My nine children practically grew up under her wing."

To Sagayap, Inday's death was not only the passing away of a friend but also the end of an era in entertainment.

"No one can replace her," she said.

SIDE A AT TAVERN

Side A continues to be a very busy band. Almost as soon as they come home from an overseas show, they fly off to foreign shores again for more shows. Before you miss Side A again, watch and hear them at Tavern on the Square, where they perform Wednesdays. Naldy Gonzales, Joey Generoso, Joey Benin, Ernie Severino and Kelly Badon liven up the midweek with their music and their presence. Tavern on the Square is on the second level of Greenbelt 3 in Makati City. The place recently became a non-smoker's haven when it started strictly implementing the government's no-smoking policy. Surprise gifts await groups of 20 or more on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A prize will also be given to the 20th guest who walks in on those days, when the price of local beer is only P20 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Ladies' drinks have a 20-percent discount during happy hour on those same days.

Jinky's free and stylish . . .

From page C2

When I went to Thailand, I found out that you could buy bonnets there for half the price."

T-shirt. "I cherish the very few times I can just dress down. I like this shirt because of its fabric. *Hindi mainit*. I pair it with pants or with jogging pants."

Nightdress. "I wear batik sundresses at night. I don't like feeling the garters on boxer shorts on my tummy when I sleep. Nightdresses are cooler."

Makeup. "I only use cosmetics from Ystilla. You can't get them in the Philippines yet, maybe next year. They last longer than other brands because they don't melt easily. And they don't have a smell."

Perfume. "Lancome's Miracle smells really good. I've been using it for two and a half years now. I bought my first bottle in the US. Whenever I pass by American women, they turn their heads and sometimes ask me what I am wearing. I love it so much that I also bought a lotion of the same scent."

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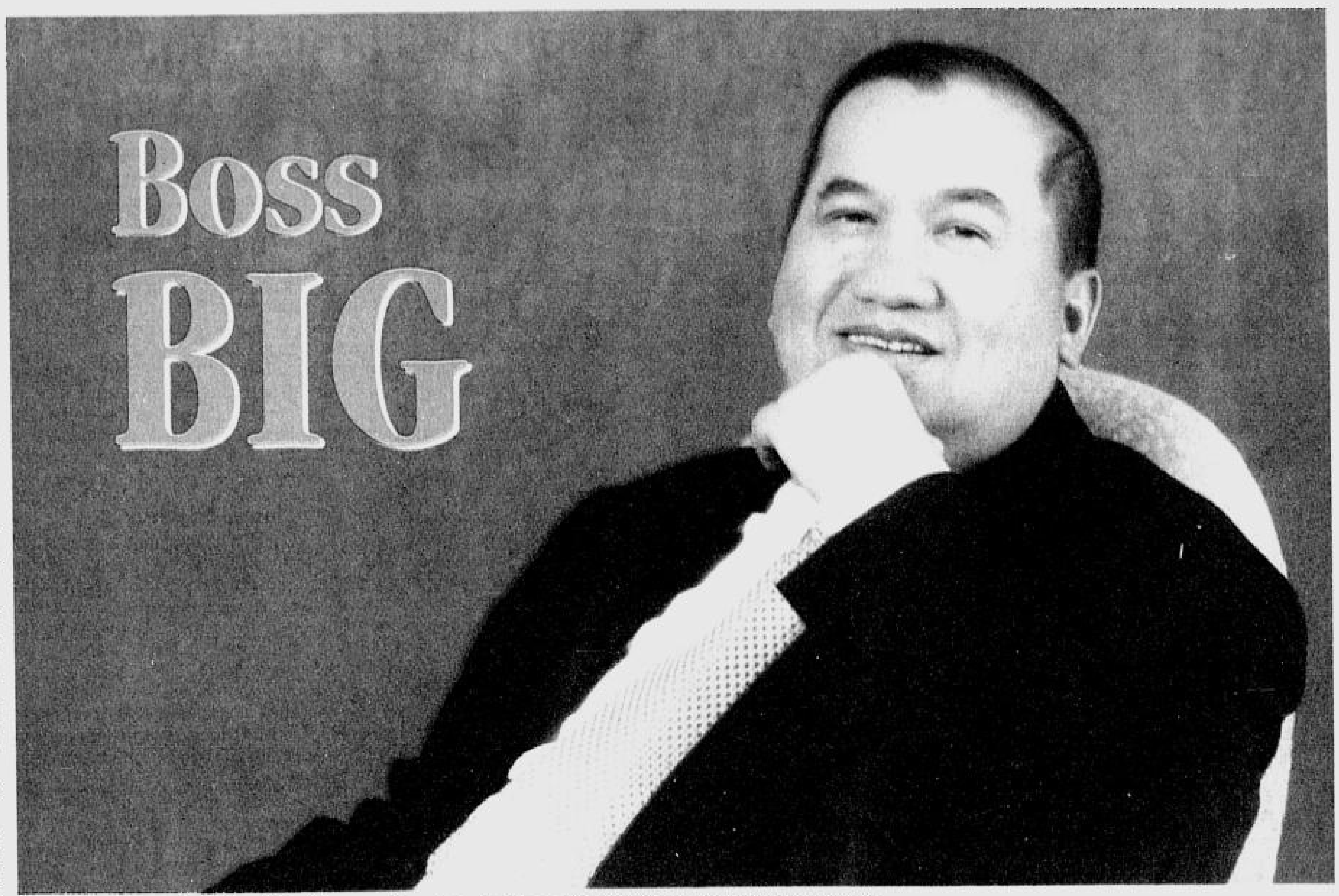
PROFILE

Boss BIG



VIVA! Vic del Rosario admires "Doc" Perez and Lou Salvador Sr., and the way Mina Aragon screened scripts.

By Louie C. Camino

THE next big star, as in BIG like Nora Aunor used to be and BIG like Sharon Cuneta still is, will be Sarah Geronimo. She will be big as a singer and recording star; she will be big on television; she will be big in the movies.

This is what Vic del Rosario feels in his guts. And his famous guts—his figurative guts, which are being overtaken in girth by his physical guts, which are also growing into legendary proportions—have rarely failed the man that the entertainment industry calls "Boss Vic" with both awe and respect.

"I think Sarah, among all the new singers, has the potential to be the brightest star," says Del Rosario in a soft, almost unsure and shy voice that belies his bulk as well as his reach and power in the business. The man has spoken. In show business, what he says is almost like law.

Illustrious company

"I have great expectations of Sarah," he says. "That's my gut feel. *Malakas ang dating. The feedback is that among the new breed of singers, she might be the next big thing.*"

The very lucky Sarah, all of 15 years old, is the first grand winner of the one-year "Search for a Star," which is patterned after "American Idol" on US television and which is now on GMA 7. She triumphed over formidable competition after three stages: pre-judging based on tape-recorded singing, vote by texting, and the actual performance.

Points out Vic: "How can you go wrong when she has been picked by many people?"

If, or when, she becomes the next big one, Sarah will have illustrious company. The star-maker Del Rosario notes that the "last really multi-media artist was Nora Aunor." "She was big in recording, movies, television," he says. "She was followed by Sharon, who's big in recording, movies and TV, followed by Regine (Velasquez). Of the three multi-media stars, two are from Viva and two were singing champions. Nora started with Alpha, but we eventually got her in Vicor," the recording company that he set up in the '60s with Orly Ilacad.

Past, present

He signed up Sarah to a 10-year "buildup contract." Which makes her really special, he points out, since even "Sharon had no contract, although we had her since she was 12." Del Rosario's past and present fuse as Sarah gets her own segment on "Sharon," the megastar's Sunday night TV show. The young singing champ performs in a concert at the Music Museum and launches her first album, with guests Regine and Jolina Magdangal.

Says Del Rosario, "Sarah as a singer? *Palagay ko sigurado na.* As a TV and movie star? We'll see how the people will take her."

Del Rosario is definite about his star-making capabilities, which are also legend by now. Listen to him tick off the stars that have come from his Viva Films and how they grew, and grew, and grew. The potential stars that he discovers and builds up become really big stars and stay for a long time, not like the one-hit wonders whose flash-sizzle-and-fade stories fill up Philippine show business.

"I guess our biggest talent now is Regine Velasquez," he says. "She first made a movie for Viva in '88, and it was called 'Pik Pak Boom.' We relaunched her as a lead in 'Wanted Perfect Mother.' And then we cast her in 'Dahil May Isang Ikaw,' with Aga Muhlach and directed by Joyce Bernal. That was a super blockbuster."

Second lease

People might not remember, or might not even know, that talk show queen, and now award-winning actress, Kris Aquino, won a second lease on her show biz life with a lot of help from Del Rosario.

He says, "Remember when Kris lost her TV show? *Tinanggal ng* Channel 2 *'yan, 'di ba? Sabi ni* Mina (his late wife, former actress Mina Aragon), *na kapatid ni* Phillip (Salvador, Kris' live-in lover then), *bigyan mo nang pelikula itong si* Kris, who was always in our house. *Sabi ko kay* Kris, *bibigyan kita ng pelikula, pero baka mag-away lang kayo ni* Ipe. *Siyempre may mga* kissing scene *'yan.* If you want to be on top again, I'll give you a TV show. I'll give you a talk show. I want you to be the next Oprah.

"But I couldn't get a TV station, I had to go to Channel 4. I produced her first talk show, the 'Kris Aquino Show.' It was hard to sell because it was on Channel 4.

"And then Mina died. *Naku, 'kako, patay!* During the wake, I told Kris I would try to convince Nards (Jimenez, former president of GMA 7) to move her to Channel 7. *Sabi ni* Nards, *baka 'pag sumikat 'yan iwanan tayo niyan. Ang* Channel 2 *iniwanan niyan, ngayon sasaluhin natin. Sabi ko, sagot ko 'yan. Hindi naman ako nagsisi sa pagsagot ko.* She clicked on GMA. *Kumikita na kami.*

"And then, one day, Kris said, 'Boss Vic, *may* offer *sa* Channel 2. *Ikaw ang* producer *ko. Sabi ko 'wag na lang (ako) kung* Channel 2. *Lumipat ka na kung magandang* offer. I will just stay with GMA. *'Kako baka multuhin ka lang ni* Mina. *Sabi ko, sige, tanggapin mo na.* So, we put 'Miss D' in the Channel 4 slot that she vacated. After that, *tuluy-tuloy na si* Kris. *Pero magaling talaga siya sa ganung klaseng* format."

Like a daughter

Another Vic del Rosario creation is singer and actress Vina Morales.

"Ang problema," Del Rosario recalls, *"yung* mommy *ni* Vina *at saka si* Mina *hindi nagkasundo.* Mina wanted full control. But blood is thicker than water. So eventually Vina left Mina. *Dinamdam ni* Mina *'yon.* Vina's using our child's name. We named her after our daughter who died, our first child, Divina Vanessa. *Dun nanggaling ang* Viva, *ipinangalan namin kay* Vina, whose real name is Sharon Magdayao. We discovered her in Cebu when she was 12 years old. *Pinabahay namin 'yan, pinaaral namin.* Mina treated her like she was her own daughter."

Robin Padilla, who started as an action star and evolved into a heartthrob in light romantic comedies, is the biggest male star that Viva made, and he became very big indeed.

"I made Robin," Del Rosario declares in a quiet, sure tone that says it cannot be contradicted. He admits that among the Viva products, Robin is also one of his favorites, "because we've had a good relationship for a long time now, and he knows how to take care of a relationship," he says. "I believe in long relationships. Mina and I were together for 23 years."

Decisions, decisions

But his all-time favorite, of course, is Sharon Cuneta, who grew up in the public eye as a Viva star, and who apparently will still be identified as a Viva star even when she grows old.

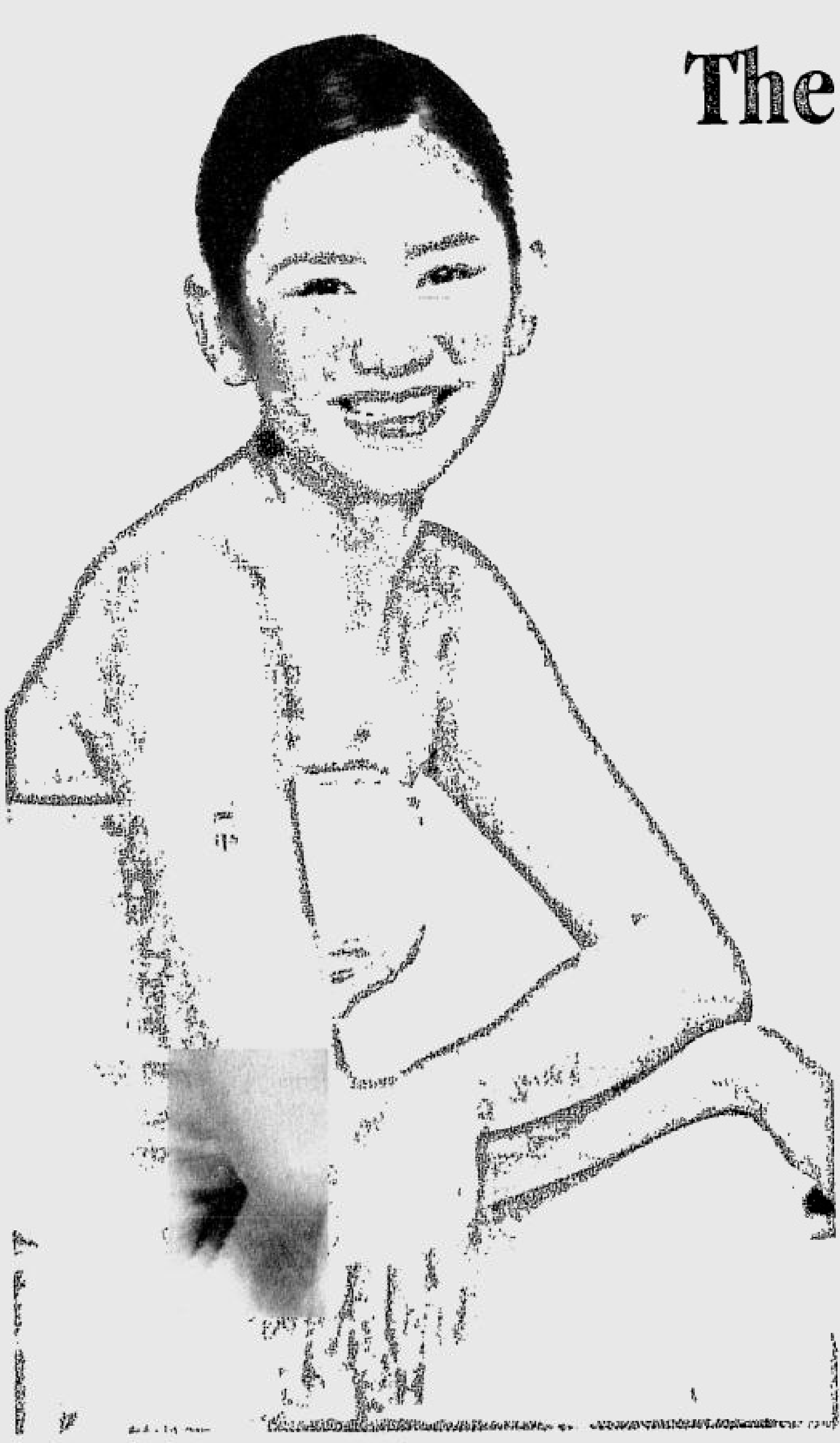
"I had full authority and control over Sharon's career," he says, and cites an example. "She was hesitant about doing 'The Lilian Velez Story' (in 199). I thought it would be

PROFILE/ C7

> 'When the market is stable, Viva may go public. That way, Viva will go on beyond my lifetime'

SHOW TIME

The next big thing



15 GOING on superstardom—Sarah Geronimo

SARAH Geronimo is a sweet, petite, courteous student from the University of Sto. Tomas Education High School and is the third of four children. Her family rents an P8,000 apartment in crowded Sta. Cruz, Manila. That might change soon as Viva honcho Vic del Rosario believes that Sarah will be the next big star.

May* boyfriend *ka na?

Sarah Geronimo: *Wala pa po.*

Mother (Divina Geronimo, 42): *Laro pa ang nasa isip niyan.*

***Sino'ng* crush *mo sa* show biz?**

SG: *Wala po. Sa* foreign *lang po.*

Who?

SG: Leonardo di Caprio.

Who's your idol?

SG: *Si* Regine Velasquez *po.*

Is your dream coming true?

SG: Opo. *Una ko pong naging* idol *si* Michael Jackson. *'Tapos po naging* Lea Salonga.

(To Sarah's mother) Vic del Rosario said Sarah will be the next Sharon or Regine.

Mother: *Bahala na ang Diyos. Basta gagawin lang namin yung mga kailangan naming gawin* with God's support.

You've done TV before. How old were you when you started?

SG: *Mga* 7 years old *po. Sa* 'Ang TV.'

Mother: Second *na 'yan, anak. Una ka sa* Channel 9, *mga* 4 years old *ka. Dapat sabihin mo rin yung mga pinagdaanan mo para 'di nila sabihin na nakalimutan mo sila. Kasi,* before *ka nag*-Channel 2, *nag*-Channel 9 *ka muna. Sa* "Pen Pen de Sarapen." *Magdamagan. Ang ipinapakain sa kanila, yung galletas. Pinagtiyagaan niya yun.* More than one year *yata bago siya nakuha sa* Channel 2.

What songs do you like to sing?

SG: *Gusto ko po* Christmas song. *Yung* (sings) "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire . . ." *Kahit ano pong* Christmas song. *'Tsaka gusto ko po mag*-Christmas *sa* America.

Do you believe in Santa Claus?

SG: *Hanggang ngayon po. Kaya nga po gusto kong pumunta ng* America . . . *Pero alam ko po na* daddy *ko po nagpapanggap na ano e . . .*

Do you already have a sad experience?

SG: *Malungkot? Opo. Pag nag*-audition *po, 'tapos di po ako natatanggap. Yun nga pong* "Star for a Night," *nakailang* audition *po ako, siguro tatlong beses. Nung pangalawang beses po, ayoko na talagang sumali. Yung kasabay kong nag*-audition, *nanalo na. Ganun. 'Pag natutulog po ako, napapaiyak ako.*

People say you're rich now.

SG: *Hindi po. Naubos nga po agad. Pambayad sa utang.*

What's your first single?

Mother: "Forever is not Enough" by Vehnee Saturno.

SG: Love song *po. Pang-matanda.*

Mother: *'Di naman pang-matanda. Pang-dalaga ang tawag dun.*

SG: *Malalim po yung kanta.*

***Wala ka pang ka*-love team?**

Mother: *Si* Mark (Bautista, second placer to Sarah in the search finals).

Bakit parang ayaw mo?

SG: (laughs) *Hindi po.*

Mother: *Kasi matanda sa kanya yun eh,* 22.

SG: *Eh, guwapo naman po si Kuya* Mark. *Kaya lang po, naiilang po ako.*

What will you not let Sarah do?

SG: *Mag*-bold!

Mother: *Siyempre, tao lang tayo, ayaw nating magsasalita ng tapos, pero hihingi ako ng* guidance *kay* Lord *na huwag dumating ang punto na bibigyan siya ng ganun.* Singer *na lang. Kung lalabas siya sa* movie, *yung naaayon lang.*

Ano ang pinakamalaking pangarap mo?

SG: *Maging* international artist. *Parang si* Miss Regine *po, tuluy-tuloy din.*

What has Regine done to help you?

SG: *Nung nag-recording po. Kasi po siya po ang nag-produce. Yung isang song po, yung song po ni* Ogie (Alcasid). *Tinuruan niya po ako kung pa'no po yung* style *niya, kung pa'no po yung* head tone, *kung pa'no po yung matataas na* notes *na hindi ako mahihirapan.*

Your story was featured in "Magpakailanman."

SG: *Yung iba po hindi naman totoo.*

Mother: For cinematic purposes *lang. Pero parang nakasira sa kanya yung eksena na nanood siya ng sine na naka*-school uniform. *Iniba kasi nila yung* story. *Napagalitan siya sa* school. *Parang lumalabas nag*-cutting classes *siya. Pagkapanuod nila ng* Thursday, *tumawag ang* school *sa bahay ng* Monday. Although *'di nila tinumbok ang* true reason, *alam ko na yun ang dahilan. Sabi ng* principal, *hindi niyo po ba alam na makaka-apekto yun?*

Mahilig ka sa damit?

Mother: *Bata pa eh. Hindi siya mahilig sa* material *na bagay. Basta kung ano lang ang ibigay mo.*

SG: *Ang gusto ko po* Play Station, PS 2. 'Tsaka yung Dance Revo.

What do you do to relax?

SG: *Manood ng* TV. *'Tsaka naglalaro. May mga aso po kami, hinaharot po namin yung aso. Tatlo po sila. Si Padji, bata pa po kami nandun na. 'Tapos, yung binili po namin nung nanalo ako sa* "Star for a Night." Basset hound. Annie *po ang pangalan. 'Tapos, yung isa po, bigay po ni Direk* (of "Star for a Night"). Schnauzer *po, yung may balbas po siya. Ang pangalan niya* Spot *pero wala po siyang* spot.

What do you like to read?

SG: *Yung mga* Goosebumps *po* by RL Stine. 'Tsaka ano po, Sweet Valley High.

Tell us about your concert.

SG: *Sa* Music Museum *po ang* concert. Guest *ko po si* Ms Regine Velasquez, *yung mga* artists *ng* Viva *at yung mga kasama ko po sa* "Star for a Night." *Ang* concept *po, yung* rising pop star. "Sarah Geronimo, Pop Star: A Dream Come True." *Yun din po ang* title *ng* album.

The Sarah Geronimo concert is on Saturday, Oct. 4, with a repeat on Friday, Oct. 24.

Louie C. Camino, Gerrilyn Cadiz

ALL DIGITAL SOUND

AYALA CINEMAS

PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1
- FREAKY FRIDAY
- KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
- ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
- FREDDY VS. JASON

G4 GLORIETTA 4
- INNER SENSES
- FREAKY FRIDAY
- THX GUARANTEED SEATS ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 12:00 [illegible]
- 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
- HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
- KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
- GIGLI

GB1 GREENBELT 1
- ArtFilm AUSTRALIAN FILMFEST
- ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20
- LANI MISALUCHA Oct 10 & 11, 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
- THX GUARANTEED SEATS HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE 1:20 3:45 [illegible] 11:00
- THX GUARANTEED SEATS ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO [illegible]
- GUARANTEED SEATS PEOPLE I KNOW 1:50 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30
- GUARANTEED SEATS GIGLI 1:30 4:00 6:10 8:20 10:30
- GUARANTEED SEATS KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA [illegible]

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
- THX ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
- KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
- HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
- BASIC
- KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 BASIC
3 INNER SENSES
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
8 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9 MEDALLION
10 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 . 833.3274
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY

st rmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 FIRST TIME
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY

METROPOLIS st r
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY
2 FIRST TIME
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 MEDALLION

st r
www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225. 892-2503

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 SWAT
2 LEGALLY BLONDE-2

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL
tel 930.9515
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2
3

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 FIRST TIME
4 RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 RESERVE
5 LIGAYA KAATUMBAS NG BUHAY
6 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
7 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
8 FREDDY VS JASON
9 BASIC

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 LIGAYA KAATUMBAS NG BUHAY
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 FIRST TIME
6 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 MEDALLION
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 KALABIT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
1 FIRST TIME
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 MEDALLION
5 LIGAYA KAATUMBAS NG BUHAY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 LIGAYA KAATUMBAS NG BUHAY
3 FREDDY VS JASON
4 FIRST TIME
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

Universal
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1 RESERVE

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 RESERVE

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1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 LIGAYA KAATUMBAS NG BUHAY
4 FIRST TIME

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 MEDALLION
3 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5 FIRST TIME

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 · 879.2029
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL CINEPLEX
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FIRST TIME
3 MEDALLION
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 FREDDY VS JASON
6 BASIC
7 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Farmers Plaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242.8400
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0928
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KALABIT
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 KALABIT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 MEDALLION
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK FRIDAY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 SWAT
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 SWAT
4 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 SWAT
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FIRST TIME
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 MEDALLION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 MEDALLION
4 KALABIT
5 FIRST TIME

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 KALABIT
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KALABIT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 LEGALLY BLONDE
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 KALABIT
4 SWAT

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 SWAT
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 KALABIT
4 FIRST TIME

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 FIRST TIME
4 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK FRIDAY)

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 FREAKY FRIDAY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 RESERVE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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FESTIVAL MALL
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Filinvest Alabang
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FREAKY FRIDAY

SNEAK PREVIEW ON SEPT. 29 & 30

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 THE MEDALLION
2 INNER SENSES
3 FIRST TIME
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 BASIC
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 BASIC
2 THE MEDALLION
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
8 FIRST TIME

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 FIRST TIME
5 FREAKY FRIDAY
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 FREAKY FRIDAY
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREDDY VS. JASON

SM BICUTAN
7763055
1 FREDDY VS. JASON
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 FREAKY VS. JASON
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

SM CITY MARILAO
(088) 8592884
1
2
3
4

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416
1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FIRST TIME
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 ASBOOBS
7 THE MEDALLION
8 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
9 BASIC
10 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088
1 BASIC
2 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREAKY FRIDAY
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 THE MEDALLION
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 FIRST TIME
10 INNER SENSES

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 THE MEDALLION
7 FREAKY FRIDAY
8 BASIC
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 S.W.A.T.
11 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
12 FIRST TIME

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 S.W.A.T.
2 DADDY DAY CARE
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 BASIC
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

SM CITY LUCENA
(042) 7108977-80
1
2
3
4

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
RESERVE-A-SEAT dial 6366800
2 BASIC
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 PEOPLE I KNOW
6 FREAKY FRIDAY
7 NOWHERE IN AFRICA
8 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
11 INNER SENSES
12 FIRST TIME

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 FREDDY VS. JASON
3 FIRST TIME
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 DADDY DAY CARE
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
6 S.W.A.T.
7 RESERVED
8 SPY KIDS 3-D

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 THE MEDALLION
2 FREAKY FRIDAY
3 BASIC
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
6 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
8 FIRST TIME
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 FREDDY VS. JASON
11 INNER SENSES
12 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
(088) 8592884
1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 DADDY DAY CARE
4 S.W.A.T.

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4464505
1
2
3
4

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/10:30 LFS/11.00 LMF/12:40 END

2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11:40 MF/12:10/2:20/4:30/10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12.40 END

DID YOU KNOW...

Charo Santos-Concio would have been the original co-host of **Tito, Vic and Joey** on the daily noontime TV show "Eat Bulaga," which started 25 years ago. TV producer Tony Tuviera of Tape Inc. first offered the job to Charo, who was then co-hosting "Friends" on Channel 4. When Charo declined, the job went to **Chiqui Hollmann.** Charo is now the executive vice president of ABS-CBN.

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THX /All Digital

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30 THX
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
5	FREDDY VS. JASON	10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
3	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
6	BASIC	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
9	THE MEDALLION	10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:3[illegible] 9:50
8	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	12:10, 2:30, 4:50, 7:10, 9:30
10	INNER SENSES	12:05, 2:15, 4:30, 6:40, 9:00

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Ermita 526-7185 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Movie	Times
1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
2	FREDDY VS. JASON	10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
3	THE MEDALLION	10:10, 12:05, 2:00, 3:55, 5:50, 7:45, 9:40
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE	10:10, 12:50, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:500
5	INNER SENSES	11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6	BASIC	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50

Metro East 682-8193/99 682-0280
Marcos hway

Cinema	Movie
1	FREDDY VS. JASON
2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7	THE MEDALLION
8	1ST TIME

Novaliches 935-3229 / 31

Cinema	Movie
1	THE MEDALLION
2	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3	FREDDY VS. JASON
4	2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
7	BASIC
8	1ST TIME

Star Mills San Fernando Pampanga (045)875-1927 (045)961-5270	**Imus** (046)471-8188 / 875-5858
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 1ST TIME	LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY
3 VISIBLE SECRET	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 MR. BONES	4 FREDDY VS. JASON
5 FREDDY VS. JASON	5 1ST TIME
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	6 THE MEDALLION

Bacolod (034)441-0458-59	**Iloilo** (033)336-8070 to 78
1 SPY KIDS 3D	1 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS
2 LEGALLY BLONDE 2	2 S.W.A.T.
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3 SPY KIDS 3D
4 DADDY DAY CARE	4 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
5 S.W.A.T.	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN	6 DADDY DAY CARE

Sta. Rosa Laguna (049)837-0007	**Malabon** 288-0985-2575
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	LIGAYA KATUMBAS NG BUHAY
2 KALABIT	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 1ST TIME	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 THE MEDALLION	

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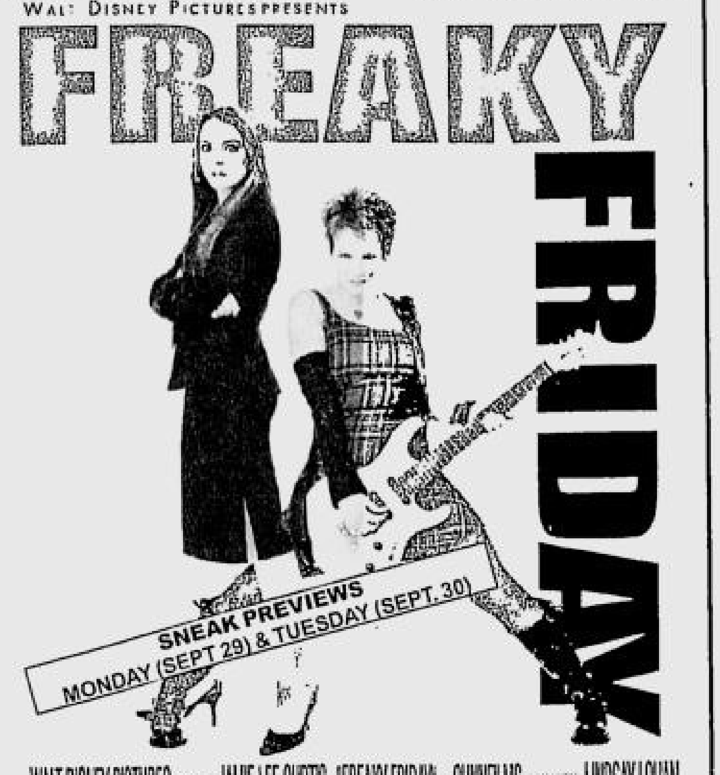
Every teenager's nightmare...turning into her mother.
JAMIE LEE CURTIS LINDSAY LOHAN
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS



SNEAK PREVIEWS
MONDAY (SEPT 29) & TUESDAY (SEPT. 30)

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS JAMIE LEE CURTIS "FREAKY FRIDAY" A GUNNFILMS PRODUCTION LINDSAY LOHAN HAROLD GOULD CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY AND MARK HARMON CO-PRODUCER ANN MARIE SANDERLIN MUSIC SUPERVISOR LISA BROWN MUSIC BY ROLFE KENT COSTUME DESIGNER GENEVIEVE TYRRELL EDITED BY BRUCE GREEN, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER CARY WHITE DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER WOOD EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARIO ISCOVICH PRODUCED BY ANDREW GUNN BASED ON THE BOOK BY MARY RODGERS SCREENPLAY BY HEATHER HACH AND LESLIE DIXON DIRECTED BY MARK WATERS

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OPENS WEDNESDAY
#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA
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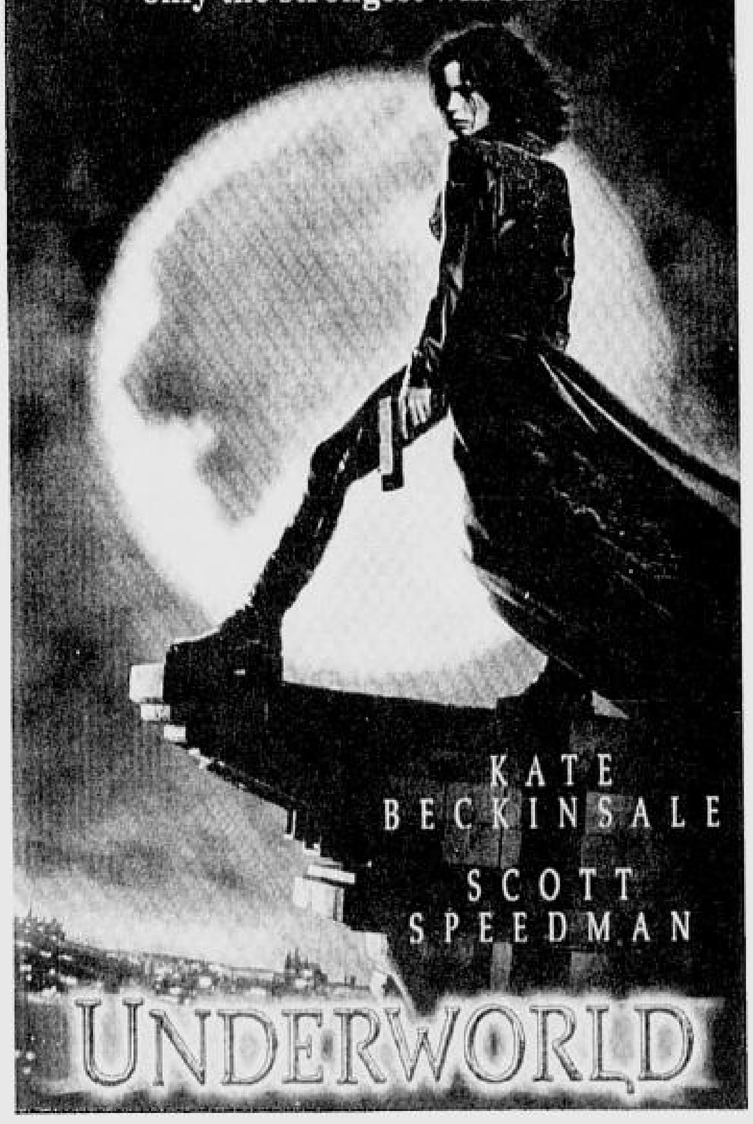

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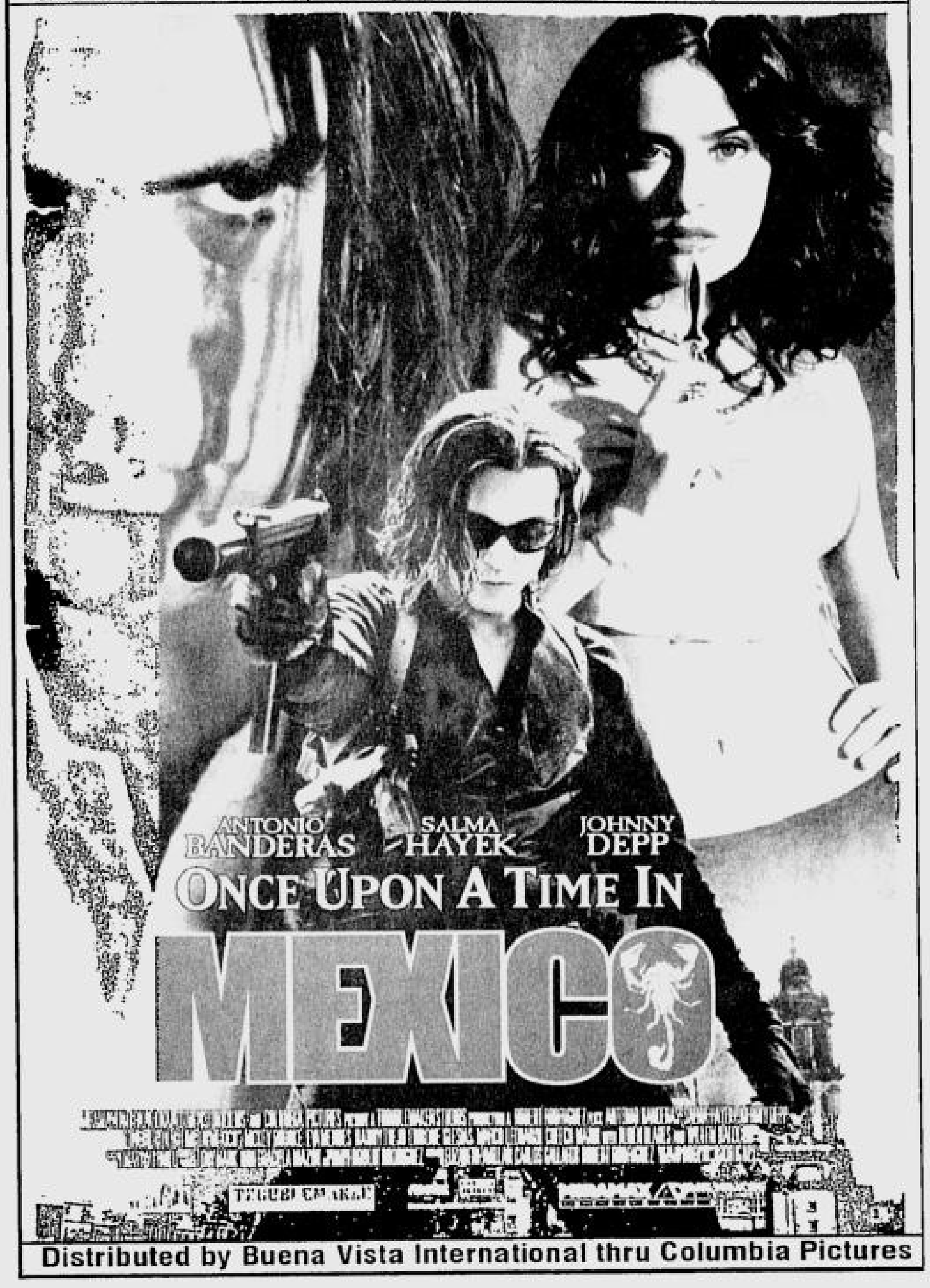

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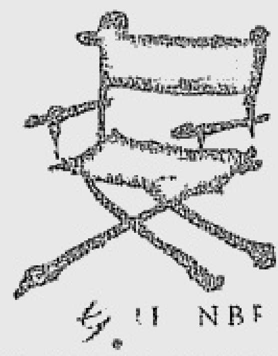

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FREAKY FRIDAY
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European cinema shows why it can hardly be surpassed

By Constantino C. Tejero

THIS is probably the first time that all five nominees for the year's Oscar Best Foreign-Language Film have been screened in the country the same year.

Two opened the year. Zhang Yimou's "Hero" (from China) was shown in commercial theaters in January. Carlos Carrera's "El Crimen del Padre Amaro" (Mexico) was shown at the film festival Pelikula at Lipunan in February.

Then in August, Aki Kaurismäki's "The Man Without a Past" (Finland) was screened in Cinemanila.

During the sixth edition of Cine Europa, screening 13 films from 11 member states of the European Union on Sept. 18-28 in the filmfest's new venue at SM Megamall, the last two nominees were shown.

Paula van der Oest's "Zus & Zo" (The Netherlands) is a crazy mixture of at least five films and a play: "The Bachelor," "The Next Best Thing," "The Wedding Banquet," "Dog Day Afternoon," "Hotel Sorrento" and "The Three Sisters." Yes, it's an enjoyable romp, made more resonant by the Bergmanian family relationships, the numerous adulteries and their psychosocial implications—but why it barged into the Oscar's Top 5 escapes us.

Caroline Link's "Nowhere in Africa" (Germany) was mobbed at its three screenings, probably from word-of-mouth that it was this year's Oscar winner for Best Foreign-Language Film. It may be deserving of the award, but Kaurismäki's droll and deadpan tale of earthly bliss, or even Zhang's ravishing epic, appeals more to us.

Festival's best

This is a family drama set against the backdrop of the Holocaust, and a saga of new colonialists settling in Darkest Africa. It expands and deepens the drama by raising questions about individual fate and national or racial identity.

Here, Link works on a broader canvas and has created a finer piece than her two other films shown in the country a few years ago: the feel-good "Annaluise and Anton" (screened in Cinemanila) and the somber Oscar-nominated "Beyond Silence" (in Cine Europa).

The film feels overextended, though. Some scenes, however, are indelible. The locust invasion is just terrible, terrible, terrible.

But arguably the most terrific of the lot in the festival is Ermanno Olmi's "The Profession of Arms" (Italy).

On a magnificent canvas, the film maestro broadly sketches the medieval battle between the Pontificals and the Lutherans, at a time when the invention of firearms changed war at the same time that war changed the world. Obviously the filmmaker here intends to make the politics, religion and technology of warfare resonate from the Middle Ages to America's latest incursion in the Middle East.

"THE MAGDALENE Sisters" by Peter Mullan, United Kingdom

The technique Olmi uses is alienating to many in the audience, as it is illustrative rather than dramatic. It is similar to the static cinema of Pasolini's "Medea."

Here the filmmaker doesn't aspire to realism or naturalistic presentation, but rather, most scenes are made to look like tableaux, so that the whole film becomes one lovely set piece, like a painting from the Low Renaissance.

Excellent

Two scenes stand out for the sheer beauty and terror they evoke: when on a wintry night the soldiers use for fuel the wooden icon of the Christ of the Unfortunate, breaking it limb by limb and throwing the head and torso to the fire; and the death and burial of Giovanni de Medici, the legendary commander who became the first victim of firearms—from the casting of his death mask to the lowering of the shroud and the funeral procession, while a solitary voice is singing "De Profundis."

We've noticed Italy seldom sends an entry to this festival, but when it does, the films are often excellent. This one was the most awarded Italian film of last year. Critics consider it Olmi's finest since his Oscar winner "The Tree of Wooden Clogs."

There are other worthy films in the 6th Cine Europa—including Alejandro Amenábar's "The Others" (Spain), Peter Mullan's "The Magdalene Sisters" (United Kingdom), Maria de Medeiros' "Captains of April" (Portugal), Erik van Looy's "Shades" (Belgium)—but it is the Italian film that has the true touch of a master.

Profile: Boss Big

From page C4

big. Her father (late Mayor Pablo Cuneta of Pasay City) thought so, too. The Lilian Velez story happened during his time. But viewers couldn't relate to the era of Lilian Velez ('50s), and the movie was not a hit.

"When you make the decision, you assume the responsibility. *Sabi ko kay* Sharon, *ako naman ang may kasalanan, diskarte ko yan. e. Isang mali, maraming tama. Ganun talaga.*"

In Sharon's case, Del Rosario apparently made more right decisions than wrong ones, decisions that eventually made her the megastar of Philippine show biz. "Viva had some big flops, including Sharon movies such as 'Cross My Heart,' and 'To Love Again' with (the late) Miguel Rodriguez. But those were more the exception. Even superstars have flops."

He declares again, "She (Sharon) is my favorite. *Iba na yung may pinagsamahan*. Besides, she made Viva big."

The 'masa' knows

He should know very well what Filipino moviegoers really like, the same movies that made Viva big. "People want to escape from their problems," he says. "Movies should be different from what people see on TV. Why do sexy movies become hits? Because you can't get sexy movies on TV."

Philippine movies, he elaborates, should not look like their Hollywood counterparts. "Hollywood-style movies made in the Philippines will have a hard time making it because local viewers have access to Hollywood movies. In our Video City stores, 80 percent of rented movies are foreign films. *Hindi totoong hindi alam ng masa ang* trend *ng* Hollywood. *Ang masa ang umuupa ng* Hollywood movies."

In typical Del Rosario understatement, he says, "It's very hard to make hits of Filipino movies. One, Hollywood movies are so big. Two, local stars are over-exposed on TV. If people are not sure a movie is really worth their while, they'd rather wait to see it on TV. In any market where television is developed, the local movies seem not so strong. Even Japan doesn't have a strong movie industry. Japan's highest rating TV shows are all local productions."

TV is another medium that he knows very well and he could very well make Sarah a *telenovela* star, too.

Predicting trends

"We were the very first to launch a *chinovela*, 'Amazing Twins' (on IBC 13)," he claims. "We were three months ahead of everyone else. Why did I launch it? Because 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' was a hit. Because 'Mano Po' was a hit.

"Since the battle is between ABS-CBN and GMA 7, we at Viva TV try to find something different. Before the *chinovela*, there were the game shows. We were first with 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire.' And then we had 'The Weakest Link' (both on IBC 13). When the others started doing games shows, we started a search for stars, 'Star for a Night.' *Meron na namang gumaya* (Star in a Million on 'ASAP Mania'). We started the *chinovela* with 'Amazing Twins,' and (ABS-CBN) followed with 'Meteor Garden.'

"In the middle '90s, there were no big soap operas on Philippine TV. The time slots were filled with news and public affairs. I said, let's bring back soap operas. We were building up Donna Cruz, whose music records were selling well. Let's pair her with Ian de Leon (son of Nora Aunor and Christopher de Leon). So we launched 'Villa Quintana.' I had to convince Nards Jimenez to agree. (Ex-GMA VP) Bobby Barreiro was saying, 'hold on, that's when people are having dinner and they want news.' Nards gave me 30 minutes for 'Villa Quintana.' *Ang lakas ng* rating! Number 1. We beat Channel 2.

"After about two months, the ratings showed that Channel 9 was coming close behind, with 'Marimar.' It became a two-way fight, and Channel 2 was left behind. But Channel 2 started a soap with Judy Ann Santos. It became a three-way fight. *Yun na, tuluy-tuloy na. Hanggang ngayon,* soap operas *ang labanan.*"

How can he predict trends?

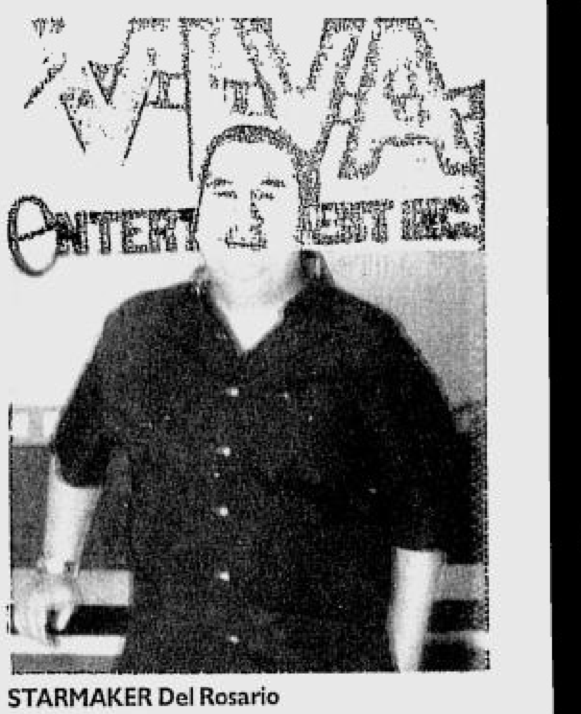
"You have to be one step ahead," he says. "When you're only copying, you're always safe, you make few mistakes. But you have to think out of the box. People want something new. The entertainment business is like fashion, it has to offer new things, either artists or trends. After a while, people will get tired of *chinovelas*."

Knowing what to do

Sarah as a recording star? Del Rosario surely should know how to accomplish that, too. He, after all, made an empire out of Vicor Records.

"Rico J, Gary V, Martin, Kuh, Zsa Zsa," he says, ticking off the names of some of Vicor's original hitmakers. "Tito Sotto (now a senator) was my head of production. Robbie Tan (now Seiko Films boss) was head of sales, fresh from college. My composers were George Canseco, Willy Cruz, Rey Valera.

"In recording, we started the Manila Sound, with the Juan de la Cruz, VST, Cinderella. I organized the first Metropop, in '78, where we discovered Freddie and 'Anak,' the first Filipino worldwide hit.


STARMAKER Del Rosario

"In recording, I can tell when something would be a hit because I know what to do," he adds.

Sarah as a concert princess? Del Rosario is now into concerts, too. Viva's latest huge hit in the concert scene was last weekend's sell-out repeat of the very successful "Greatest Hit—Just Once," featuring five balladeers from the previous decades.

"*Dati pasulput-sulpot lang ako sa* concerts," he says. "I brought the Menudo to Manila, when nobody had heard of the Menudo. I brought them here on their first three Manila visits. In '76, I brought the Jackson 5 here."

Role models

Viva's Boss Vic himself is a moviegoer who likes "Spielberg, movies with specials effects but also with a heart."

"In the first five years of Viva Films, I couldn't sleep when my movies were going to open," adds the 57-year-old man who has been making movies for the past 22 years, and who has been in the entertainment business for a total of 37 years. "I would wait for the first showing in the morning, and sometimes I would watch it in Avenida (Rizal Avenue, in the heart of Manila). There were no malls then."

His role model in movie-making is the late legend, "Doc" Jose Vera Perez. "He was THE star builder," says Del Rosario. "In live entertainment, *ang* role model *ko, ang tatay ni* Mina (the late legendary impresario Lou Salvador Sr.)"

Another important influence remains, Mina herself, who died in July 1996. In his new office on two floors occupied by Viva at the Tektite Towers in Ortigas Center, only two photographs hang on the wall—one of Mina by Jun de Leon, the other of Sharon by Jaime Zobel.

"Somehow, some of my decisions are still influenced by Mina," Del Rosario admits. "She was good in choosing scripts. That was her forte. She read *komiks. Malaking bagay rin ang pulso niya*, having been an actress. *Magaling siya.*"

His legacy

Del Rosario has been working "non-stop" since he was 20. "First job, first business," he says, referring to Vicor Records.

"I'm close to slowing down so I can start enjoying life a little," confesses the man who also describes himself as "a bachelor" now, although sightings and talk pair him off with a young and pretty woman who is not in the movies. "Two of my kids are helping me in the business," Vincent, 36, and Veronique, 33. Valerie, 22, is taking up filmmaking. Vicente Raphael is 19.

"Maybe, when the market is stable, Viva may go public," says Del Rosario. "That way, Viva will go on beyond my lifetime."

Beyond his lifetime, his very full and busy lifetime, and with or without Viva going public, "Boss" Vic del Rosario's legacy will live on and on, as long as there are movies and records and videos, and there are mortals who dream of becoming stars, like Sarah Geronimo.

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Ali 4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 5	FREDDY VS. JASON
Ali 6	BASIC
Ali 7	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY: LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	[illegible]
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAK
ACT-3	ORIGINAL S
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATA
CORONET A	LIGAYA KATUMBAS AY BUHA
CORONET B	A MAN APAR
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PU
REMAR	X-MEN
REMAR-2	BOLD STA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
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CINEMA 2	[illegible]
CINEMA 3	KAYA KO PERO MASAK

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(LAS PIÑAS)	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
CINEMA-1	S.W.A.T.
CINEMA-2	MEDALLION
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

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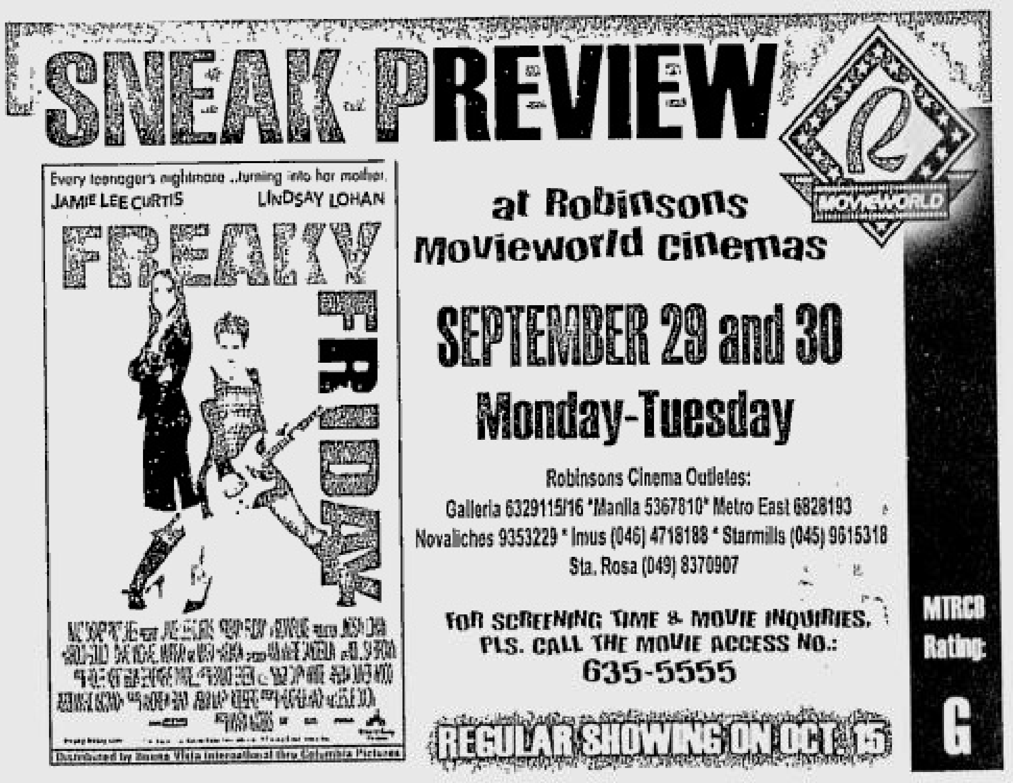
CINEMA-4	SELDA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ZENAIDA Amador is a wacky nun in "Late Night Catechism."

The hilarious technology of 'interactive comedy'

By George T. Ramos
Contributor

REVERED Repertory Philippines (REP) theater gurus Zenaida "Bibot" Amador and Baby Barredo are now engineering a "mini-revolution" in comedy on the Philippine stage in Bahaghari Productions' staging of the American hit "Late Night Catechism" by Vicki Quade and Maripat Donovan.

As a good, old-fashioned but sublimely fun and funny nun (the two stars alternate in playing the single role in this one-woman play and also directed each other), each actress seeks to stretch the boundaries of theatrical comedy by creating highly innovative and highly humorous "interactive comedy" for the tech-savvy and the proudly traditional alike.

The play's setting is a simulated adult catechism class being taught by our silly sister—the audience members are her students. The mirth-provoking "interaction" is between our unconventional nun and the audience and is programmed to happen during various "Question and Answer" portions throughout the play (or class). Our merrymaking Reverend Mother will ask the audience questions (she will expect answers or else—The Ruler!), respond to answers and she will invite audience members to ask questions of their own. She will actually talk to the audience.

The subject of the Q&A? Hard-core Roman Catholicism! But discussions never become irreverent, blasphemous, difficult or unfunny. Naturally, these portions are not scripted.

There has been reality TV of all kinds. Now, here's 100-percent live and amazing reality theater that means to blur the differences between watching a play, acting in one or being in a real live situation. To make this far-out vision into hilarious actuality requires a very special kind of technology: Theatrical virtuosity and wisdom.

That's where Bibot and Baby come in. They are finding a Brave New World with the science of generating that extended laughing spree everyone regularly needs and seeks after.

Tell us how "Interactive Theater" makes the play especially funny.

Bibot Amador (BA): Here, your scene partner is the audience. You don't know what the questions and answers—and reactions are going to be. Because of this, you have to really relate to the audience. And because of this, the play is always exciting and very dynamic.

Baby Barredo (BB): The play is very spontaneous. You never know what is going to happen—that's where the fun comes in. The actor has to be fast in thinking and know how to ad lib. From the unexpected comes the funny.

A review of the US performance praised the play as "an entertaining mix of monologue, stand-up, improv and Oprah." (Newsday) Most of this "mix" could involve interactive comedy. It also appears the play uses different types of comedy. Can you comment on this?

BA: Yes, it tries to use different types of comedy. There's stand-up. Bits of monologue. There's different stories on saints told in their particularly funny ways... All in all, it's free-wheeling and relaxed versus the usual kind of play. It's so participatory. The nun is like a conductor and the audience is the orchestra.

THE HILARIOUS/ D2

BABY Barredo alternates and does her take on the sacred and the not-so sacred

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Fiery flamenco opens Spanish cultural fest

FLAMENCO is a multi-form art involving song (*cante*), dance (*baile*) and guitar (*toque*).

But what is called flamenco now is actually a hybrid of several cultural streams, including the various strains of Andalusian folklore.

Most scholars will agree, however, that the birthplace of flamenco is Jerez de la Frontera, in Andalucía. Because of the Gypsies' nomadic nature, flamenco quickly gained roots in several other Andalusian towns, including Sevilla and Granada.

The gypsies were not the creators of flamenco, but they played a significant role in its distilling and development, and the dance remains a part of their culture up to the present. Perhaps because of the Gypsies' long history of persecution, flamenco is known to be a dance with passionate, instinctive and tragic elements. Up until now, the gypsies are considered the best interpreters of the art of flamenco.

Toward the end of the 19th century, flamenco entered the commercial arena. Dancers (*bailaor*), singers (*cantaor*) and guitarists (*tocaor*), converted "professional" artists, flourished in what was called *"café cantantes"* (song and dance cafés). This led to changes in the nature of the songs. Many of the more primitive forms languished, or were totally lost, while more upbeat forms became tremendously popular.

Considered the Golden Age of the Gypsy-originated dance genre, the period was also marked by the finest guitarists of all times, such as Ramon Montoya, who became the founder of the modern style of flamenco solo guitar.

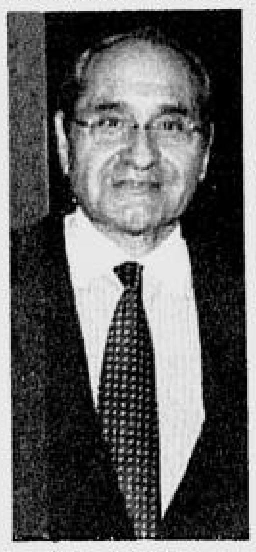
Café cantantes greatest days were over by the turn of the century. By 1910, they were in serious decline, replaced by theatrical presentations, the most famous of which was George Bizet's Carmen.

Flamenco fell into "hard times" during the war in Europe and the civil war in Spain. Fortunately, in the same period, several singers rediscovered the older forms and reestablished interest in flamenco as an art form, as well as a commercial form of music. Thus the birth of Flamenco Renaissance whose key figure was the great *cantaor* Antonio Mairena (1909-1983), particularly noted as a compiler of flamenco.

The establishment of Flamenco Festivals from the 1960s to the 1980s reinforced the revival, opening up the art to a wider public and providing opportunities for new artists. Flamenco has evolved ingeniously, reviving the traditional while coloring it with new waves of music. The result is a fascinating *mestizaje* with the performance art redefined for a new generation. Among the big names in its evolution are Camarón de la Isla and Paco de Lucía. To be added to the list of *bailaors* are Antonio Gades, Sara Baras and Joaquín Cortés, who was once linked with the lustrous Naomi Campbell.

Today, flamenco is seasoned with jazz, salsa and bossa nova.

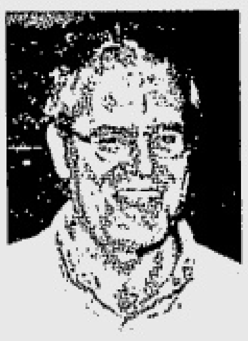
Jerez now hosts an annual Flamenco Festival that attracts thousands from around the world. The 2000 Best Flamenco Company Award winner, Nuevo Ballet Español, will be performing at the Meralco Theater on Oct. 3-4. Founders Ángel Rojas and Carlos Rodríguez are among the most innovative *bailaor* in the realm of flamenco.

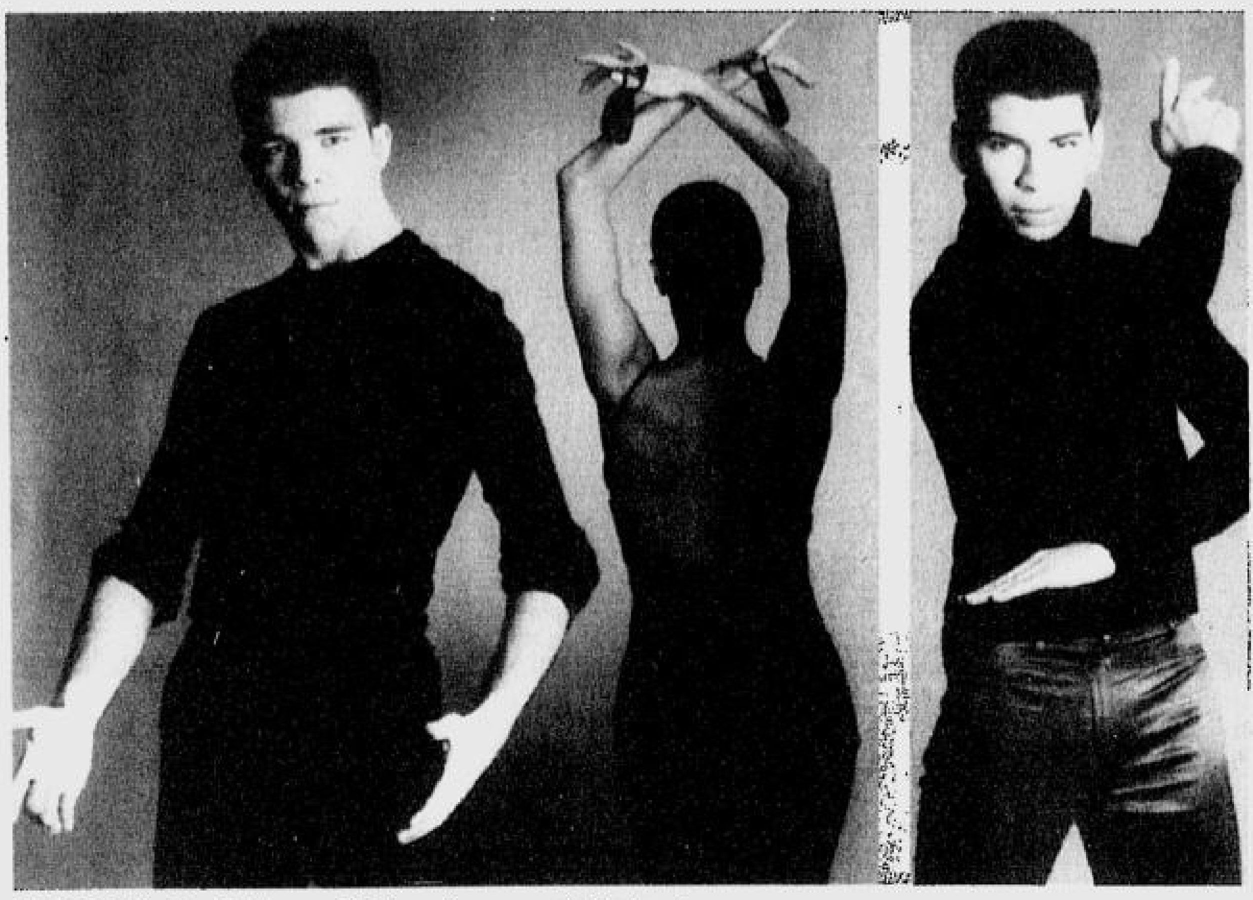

AMBASSADOR Ignacio Sagaz of Spain

MADAME Aurora Sagaz

ONE of the best Spanish classical guitarists, Jorge Orozco is coming back to Manila for another engaging concert on Oct. 8.

JOSE-MARIA Taberre, coordinator of the General-Ministro De Asuentos Exteriores


ANDRES Soria Olmedo, professor of the University of Granada


NUEVO Ballet Español in one of their performances in Spain

Award-winning troupe to perform passionate, tragic dance

JOSEPH Merandilla and professor Ruben Reyes PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

The hilarious technology of 'interactive comedy'

From page D1

BB: Well, more than all that, the heart of it is that from the first minute of the show, Bibot and I have to grab the audience. It's just up to us to feel happy and relaxed throughout the show so that the audience will not feel shy. You don't know what kind of audience your going to get on a certain performance. Some are game. Some aren't. You must know how to adjust to each audience, stir them and bring them out... or else it might turn out like a school lecture in this country, where no one wants to participate in the question and answer.

Because of the innovative nature of the play, test audiences were invited to rehearsals. What was the feedback of the test audiences?

BB: They said it's not like a play. It's like talking to someone—a nun, giving a catechism class... As actors, we're used to connecting to other actors. We're used to not breaking the fourth wall—that imaginary wall between audience and performer. We're so used to not looking at the audience. This is not like a formal play. We have to do the opposite of things we learned in drama school. Here, the audience is an integral part of the play. The play is a now kind of play.

BB: Our test audiences were composed of theater people, who are game and really enjoyed.

Describe this wildly hilarious high-tech play in a few strict nun's words.

BB: It's a play that's not a play. ... Something we haven't tried.

BB: My fellow actor is the audience and the audience has no script. ... Not a play I am used to. But it's a good play. It's different. I was in a one-woman play recently—"Master Class" about the famous opera singer Maria Callas but there was no open forum like this—and there was a fourth wall.

What was your reaction when you first read or saw the play?

BB: When I first read it, I thought it was good but I didn't want to do it... but sometimes you get crazy in the head...

BB: The play is lots of fun for the actor and for the audience. The nun is not like the nuns we know who are strict. She's warm. After teaching kids for 30 years, you tend to become childlike. She's game to play ball with the audience and hopefully the audience is also.

From what can be seen in the horizon, it's safe to say that this is not the time to let this very special technology leave you behind. "Late Nite Catechism" is rare chance to experience—or, rather, be a real, living, breathing part of the crazy, zany, fun but ultimately sublime science of comedy.

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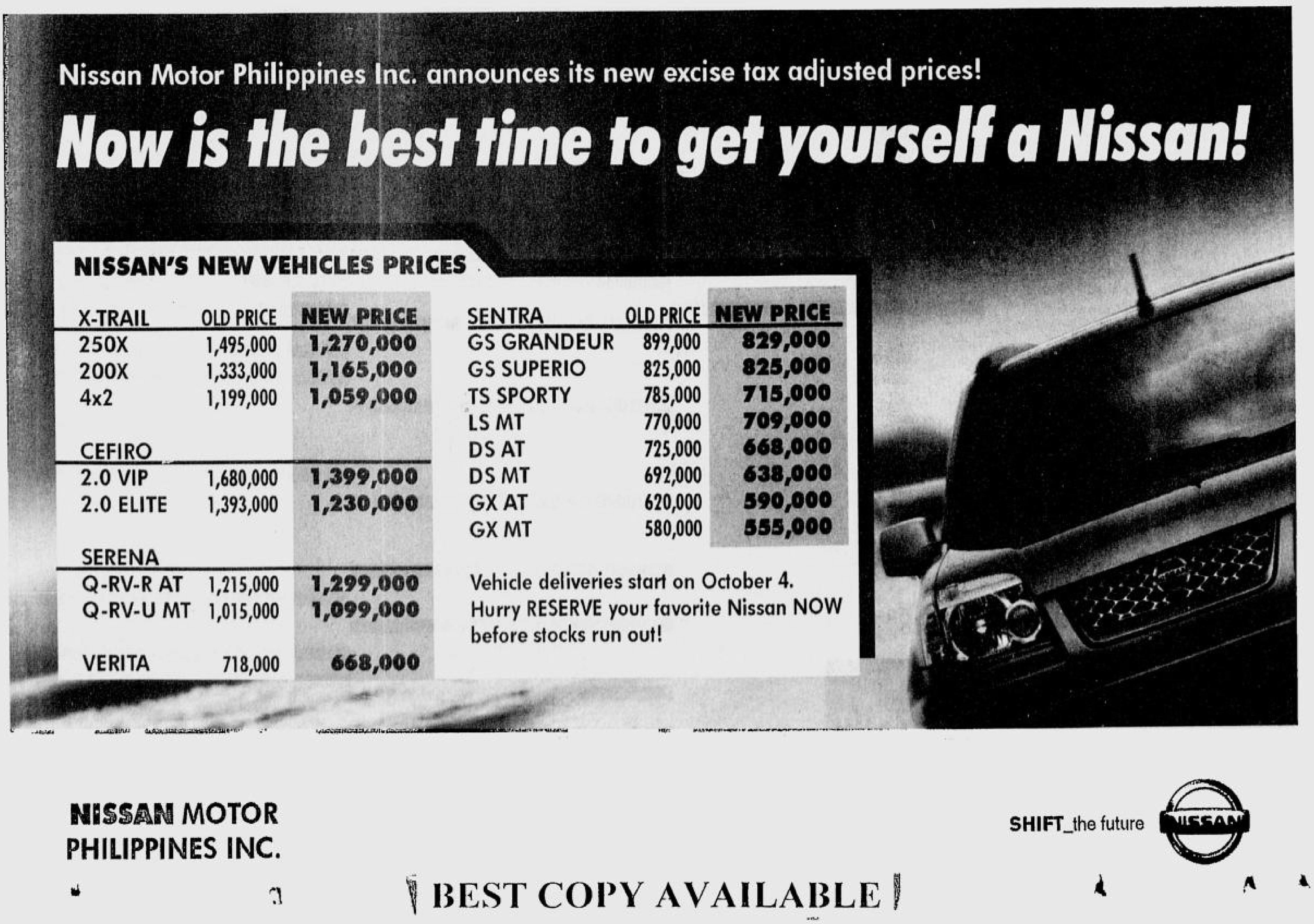
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First Battig awardees named

BLANCA Dinglasan

AS PART of the preparation for its centennial in 2006, St. Scholastica's College (SSC), together with the alumnae of its School of Music and the Sr. Baptista Battig Music Foundation Inc., has set up the Battig Golden Awards.

The award, named after the Benedictine nun who pioneered in music education in the Philippines, will honor Estrella Wyangco Ackerman, Pacita Zaragosa Araneta, Imelda Katigbak Dayrit, Blanca Castillo Dinglasan (posthumous) and Soledad K. Maramba (posthumous).

The women got together in 1992 and investing personal funds and great effort to establish the Sr. Baptista Battig Music Foundation Inc. that granted scholarships and carried on the system established by the Benedictine nun.

Sr. Battig was a concert pianist before joining the Benedictine Sisters in Germany. She arrived in the Philippines in 1907 and taught piano in SSC. She also held two public concerts to raise funds for the college.

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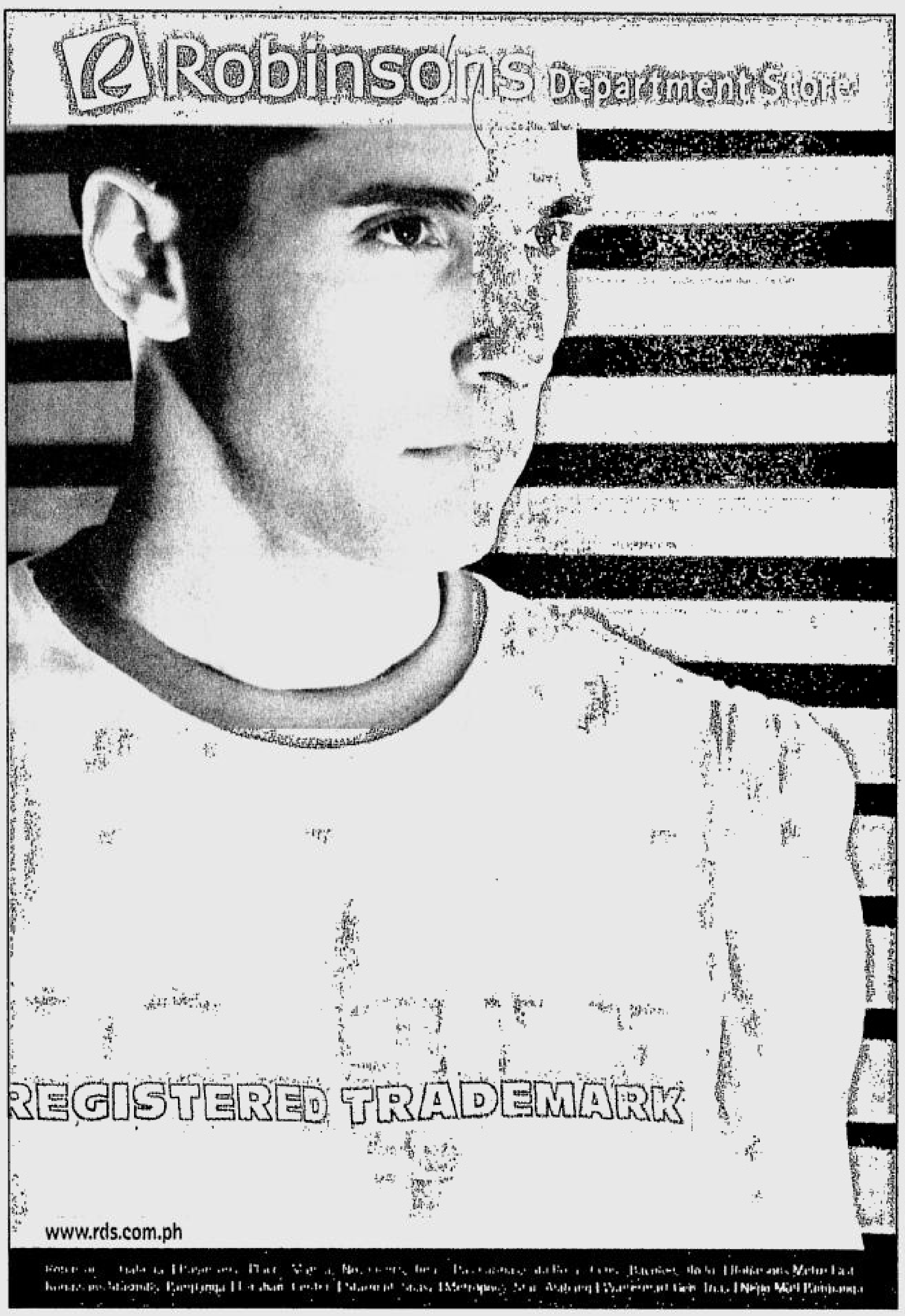

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"Wish Upon EQ"
P.O. Box 820 Kalookan City

4. Ang deadline ng submission of entries at ang draw dates ay:

	DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	DRAW DATE
1st Monthly Draw	Sept. 27, 2003	Oct 11, 2003
2nd Monthly Draw	Oct. 25, 2003	Nov 8, 2003
Grand Draw	Dec. 6, 2003	Dec 20, 2003

5. May limang (5) participating areas: NCR (including Rizal), North Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao.
6. Ang monthly draws para sa NCR, North Luzon at South Luzon ay gagawin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., LAM-AN Center, 72 2nd St., between 8th & 9th Ave., Grace Park, Kalookan City. Ang draws para sa Visayas ay gagawin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., Cebu Office, Mandaue North Central, M.L. Quezon Ave., Cabangcalan, Mandaue, Cebu City. Ang draws para sa Mindanao ay gagawin sa Kennes Logistics Phils., Inc. WHS 2-3 Kavin Warehouse Compound, Gayabas, Kauswagan, Cagayan De Oro City.
7. Ang Grand Draw para sa NCR, North Luzon at South Luzon ay gagawin sa Philam Tower Lobby, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Ang Grand Draw para sa Visayas ay gagawin pa rin sa Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., Cebu office at ang Mindanao Grand Draw ay gagawin pa rin sa Kennes Logistics Phils., Inc. (Cagayan De Oro office)
8. Ang mga premyong maaaring mapanalunan ay ang sumusunod:
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11. Philam Plans 4-Year College Gold Education Plans are transferable BUT not convertible to cash.
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14. Employees of Unitrade Merchandise, Inc./East Valley Enterprises, Inc./Philam Plans, their advertising and PR agencies, suppliers, sub-distributors and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
15. Promo period is from September 1 to December 6, 2003.

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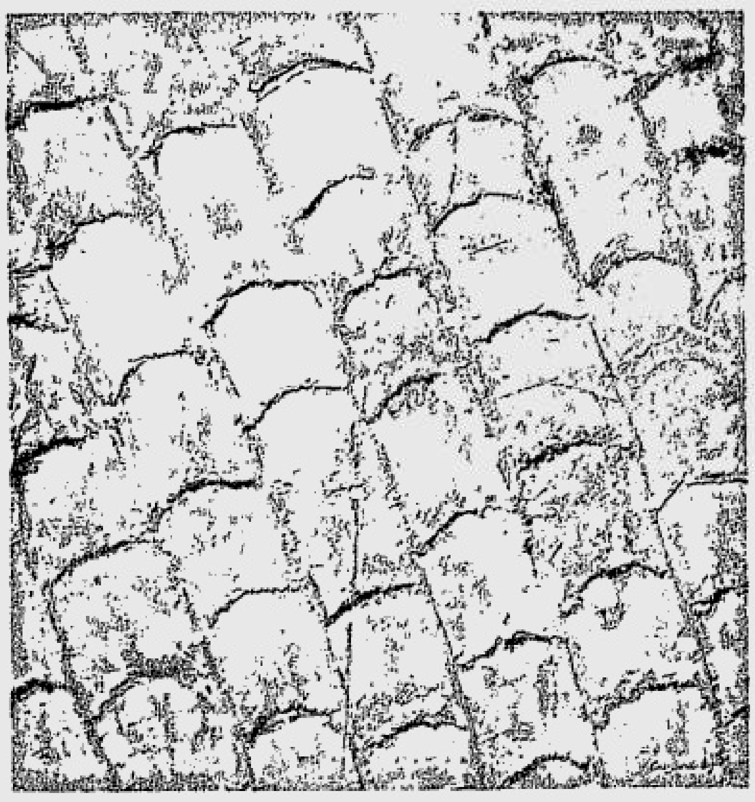
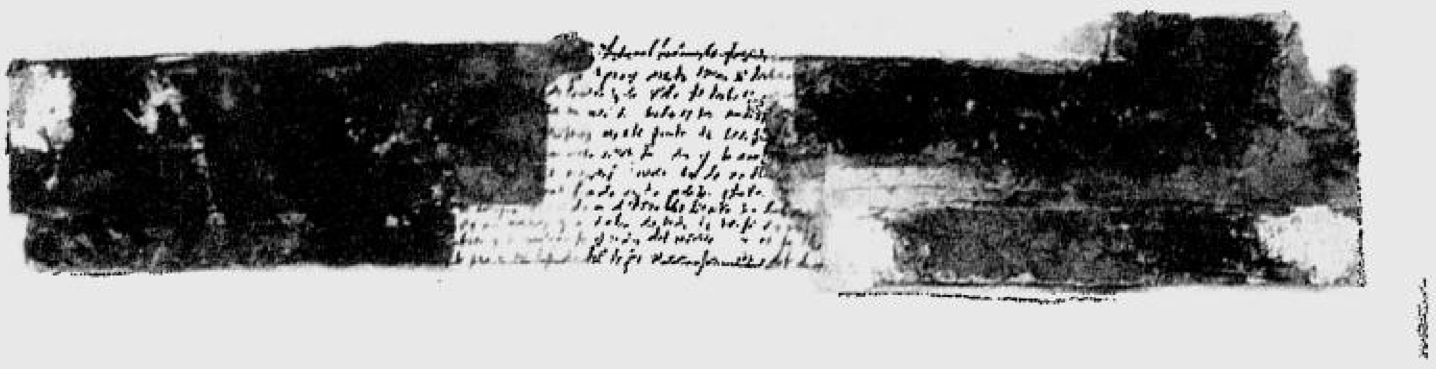
Arts/Design



"YELLOW Tiles"



"PALABRAS"

Figures from abstraction

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE ANDALUCIAN artist Ginés Serrán-Pagán has returned. That is, he has returned to the Philippines for his 10th exhibit in the country, and he has returned to his homeland after three decades.

More than half of this artist's life had been spent away from Spain, living as he did in 15 countries, from New York, Paris and South Dakota to Athens, Rome and Israel, from Mexico and Canada to Asia, Oceania and West Africa. That's why he finds more affinity not with fellow Andalucian Picasso but with the French-Peruvian Gauguin, a fellow traveler.

Only recently did Serrán-Pagán return to Andalucia, putting up an atelier in Sierra de Grazalema, and has settled there with his two children, close to nature.

To him Gauguin is a kindred spirit not only in mining for artistic inspiration the simple folk in remote villages, but also in the expressionist use of color and broad brushstrokes.

This is amply displayed in "New York 1983-Philippines 2003: Twenty Years of Paintings," until Sept. 30 in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

These are 17 pieces in mixed media on canvas, in dull monochrome or luminous swathes of pure color. They are highly textured, almost like collages or low reliefs, using fabric swatches, ropes, strings, paper pulp, marble dust, sand, thickly painted in acrylic, sometimes in a wash, or staining on unprimed canvas.

"The current tendency in international art is the using of texture, eclecticism, and a blending of abstraction and *figurismo*," he observes. "Pure American ab-

FIGURES/ E2

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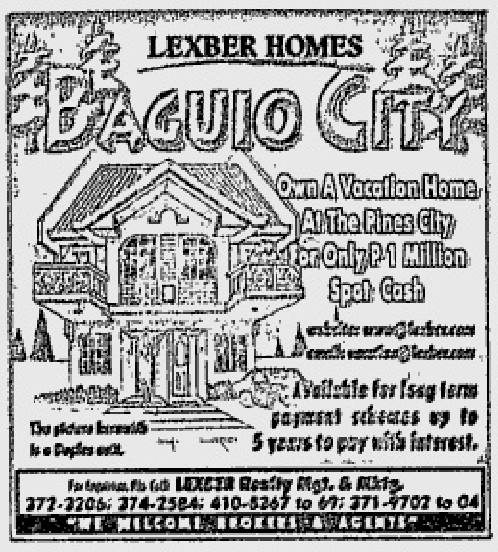
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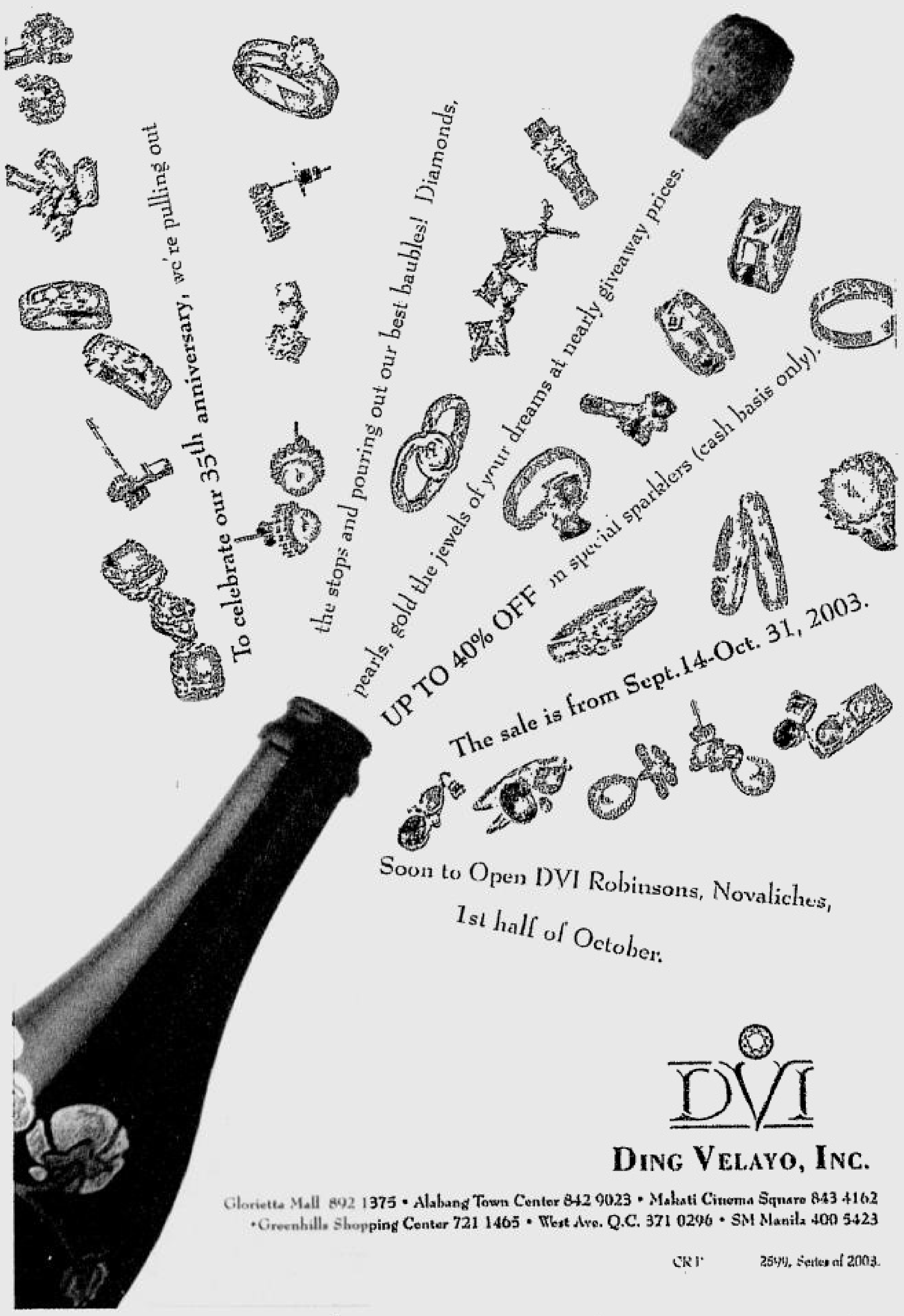
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Performativity in Esquillo

By Lito Zulueta

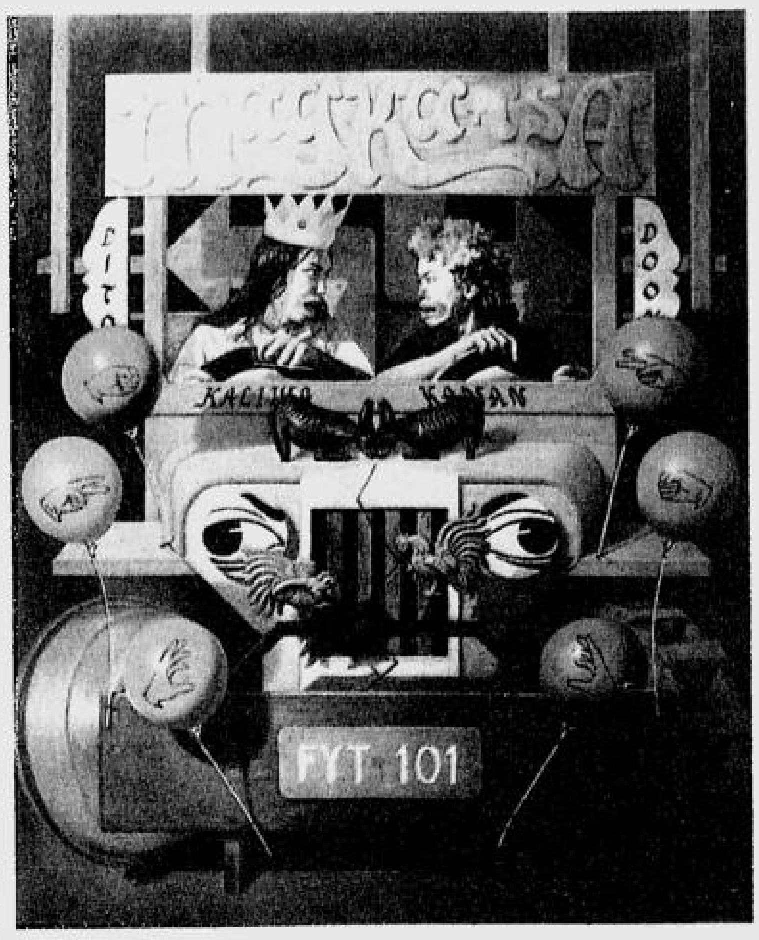
ALFRED Esquillo shows a deeply complex art in the guise of the comic in "Tragicomedy," his latest one-man show at the West Gallery-Megamall (until tomorrow). With the same uncanny hyperrealism that has become his forte, Esquillo breaks new ground by shifting from the serious folk Catholic iconography that characterized his previous works (he is a product of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design) to the folksy secular, in which *santos* compete with the *ikons* of popular culture, the mishmash of images not exactly a mismatch but evocative of the Pinoy milieu where the sacred and the profane, the tragic and the comic interface.

In "Isang Bangka Tayo," a family navigates through the perennial floods of the metropolis aboard the rusty chassis of a jeep. The man is busy chatting in his mobile phone, the woman in leather skirt and boots looks distracted while holding a red balloon with the face of the suffering Christ crowned by a smaller elongated balloon twisted like a phallus, and their son fishes from the waters. On their Noah's ark are inessentials such as electric fan, sneakers and shopping bags, which don't make their survival any less difficult. But the goods are not likely to be jettisoned soon because for all intents and purposes, the flood has afforded the family a rare picnic.

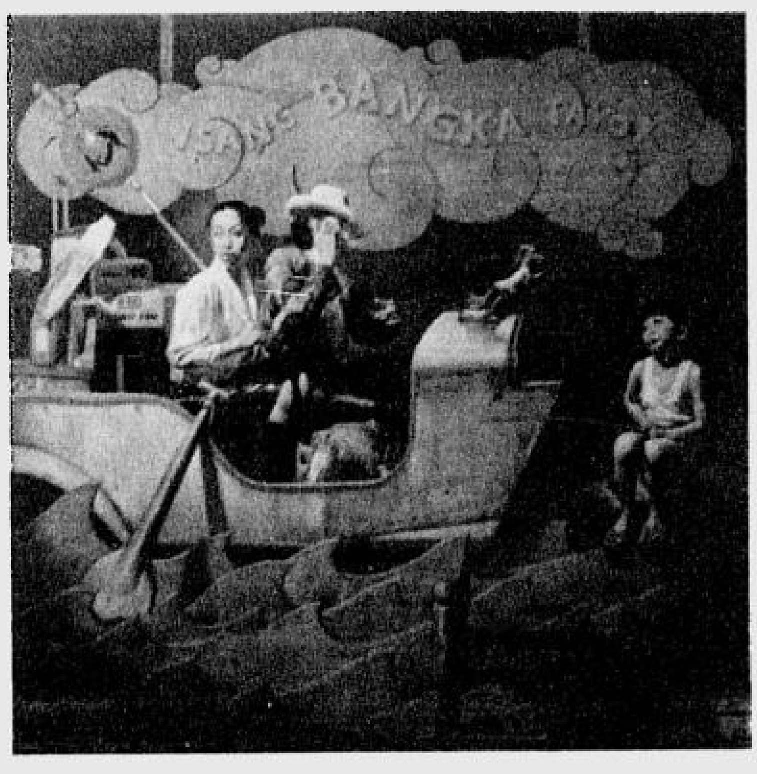
Stage props that frame the family check the ultra-realism here. The storm clouds and waters are totally made up. Esquillo seems to say that Filipinos survive flooding and other urban plagues by stagecraft, that is, by role-playing.

In fact, "Role Playing" is the title of one piece in which two women quarrel on opposite ends of a toy accordion, the racket that they make merely the jarring music of a theater production. The same point seems made by "Internal Dispute," in which two men aboard a toy jeepney, one dressed as a king and the other a court jester, both of them with their own steering wheels, quarrel, their tiff complemented by right-left signs, fighting cocks and balloons bearing *Jack en Poy* hand signs. On the headboard of the jeep is the inscription, "Magkaisa" (Unite). Esquillo seems to say the Filipino is a split personality, an actor that can play all roles, even play the protagonist and the antagonist in one person.

The role-playing extends to "The Queen, Multi-Tasking," in which the lowly housewife keeps house, takes care of the baby, cooks the meal and washes the laundry all at the same time.



"INTERNAL Dispute"



"ISANG Bangka Tayo"

Decorum

Esquillo calls his works "tragicomic" to refer to both the sad and the happy counterpoints that mark the Filipino's life. He seems to say that coping with the vicissitudes of life makes the Filipino a tragic hero, a status reserved usually for larger-than-life people who enjoy high status, in fulfillment of the requirement for "decorum" in classic tragedy. So the artist crowns the housewife in "Multitasking" and the driver in "Internal Disputes" to elevate them from the ordinary.

But Esquillo shows them also as comic characters. In the usual tragicomedy, an abrupt happening stops the story from going the full way of tragedy. In this case, the dire emergencies of daily life, tragedy—prone as it is, become in themselves the source of comic relief and happy ending. John Fletcher said that the tragicomedy is both near to death and near to comedy, the antipodal points somehow providing a balance. And the Filipino has always personified this tragicomic mean.

But Esquillo seems also to say that no inner resources are involved in the Filipino's endurance. In the end, it's all performativity. Since the Filipino has always been buffeted by natural and manmade disasters, then he has no choice but to assume the role imposed on him by the tragic trajectory, an illocutionary or performative utterance in itself. He has no choice but to engender in himself the tragicomic role of both hero and heel.

IAN Veneracion shows abstracts at West Gallery-Megamall

Ian Veneracion at West, Ugnayan '80 at Le Soufflé

VISUAL ARTS

WEST Gallery features actor-painter Ian Veneracion's "Recent Works" on Oct. 1-14 at SM Megamall. Veneracion's abstract images serve as his diary in color, a collection of different stories as he evolves as an artist. Call 6341284.

GALLERY 139 presents the latest pottery pieces of Sammy Kilat and Pete Cortes in "Pansol Sessions." The collection was made in gas and woodfire kilns. The exhibit is until Oct. 8 at the third floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

AVELLANA Art Gallery showcases R. Sta. Ana's "Bulong-Morphed Anatomy & Incantation" until Oct. 10 at house A-19, 2680 F.B.Harrison St., Pasay City. The exhibit features 30 hypertexted works on 100-percent cotton-rag, acid-free archival paper and ink.

WATERFRONT Cebu City Hotel and Casino features the works of Anthony Fermin until Oct. 18. The artist portrays his family, friends, love for nature and his travels.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery showcases Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan's "Monsters I.n.K.ed!" on Sept. 30-Oct. 12 at SM Megamall A. It features more than 30 postcard-sized depictions of all-original creatures by Ang I.n.K. members.

PINTO Art Gallery (1 Sierra Madre, Grand Heights, Antipolo) mounts Sandra Fabler-Gfeller's "Paper Bag" until Nov. 9 at its Gallery 1. The artist features paintings of brown paper bags.

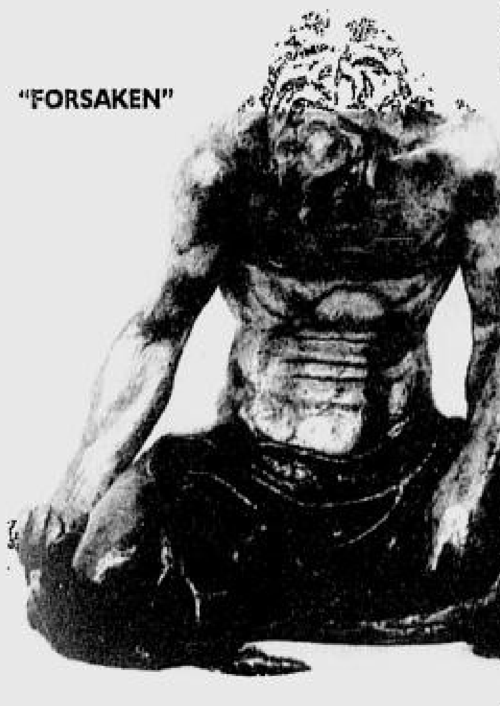
IAN/ E3

ARTIST-AUTHOR Tam P. Austria recently tackled his "Recreamindoism Rena" aesthetics before faculty and students of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design. In photo, Austria shows his certificate of appreciation. He is flanked by art professors Danny Santiago, Myla Baldemor and Rhoda Recto, and Dean Jaime de los Santos.

UGNAYAN '80 artists, all UST alumni, will exhibit at Le Soufflé Bistro in Ortigas Center. In the foreground (from left) are Ruben Sindac, Dante Manuel, Koni Samson-Sayo and Ising B. San Andres. In second row: Emma Ocampo-Salazar, Lina Velas-Sotto, Lourdes Riu-Andrews and Romy Velasco. Third: Edith Mata-Guerrero, Rene Quiroz and Ed Bayani. Fourth: Mario Santiago, Antonio G. Austria, Pag-asa Estrella and Domingo Alconaba.

Soul of bronze

By Constantino C. Tejero


"FORSAKEN"

FILIPINO-AMERICAN artist Earl Enriquez is one of the very few of his generation who continue the legacy of classical Filipino sculpture from Guillermo Tolentino, Anastacio Caedo and José Mendoza. Yet only a few Filipino art lovers have seen his work.

He has had numerous exhibits abroad, such as in the Mussi Artworks Foundry Moonlight Pour and in the Academy of Art College Annual Spring Show, but never held one in the country until now.

A product of the School of Visual Arts, the Academy of Art College and University of San Francisco, Enriquez started as a painter but began concentrating on sculpting in 1994, particularly bronze. His pieces can be found in private collections in Metro Manila and as commissioned projects around the San Francisco Bay Area.

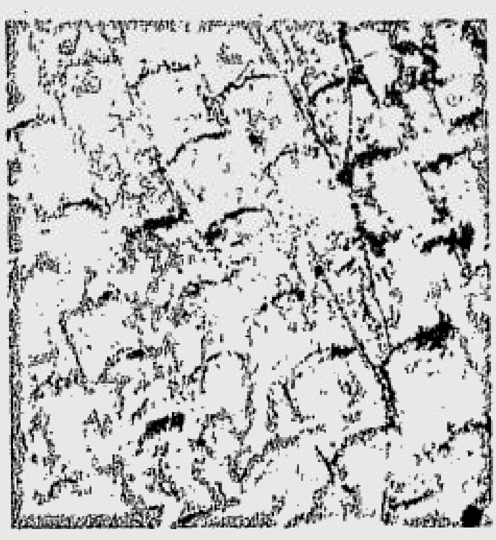
Many of these are religious objects and images: A relief of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Gleeson Library of University of San Francisco; figure of Christ's Resurrection, bronze shrines, tabernacle, procession cross, altar, trims, chalice and plate in the Leontyne Chapel of the Bellarmine College Preparatory; bronze rosebush, crucifix, suspended tabernacle formed like a dove and busts of St. Ignatius of Loyola in the Jesuit Community of San Francisco; figure of Christ's Ascension and bust in Parañaque and Makati collections.

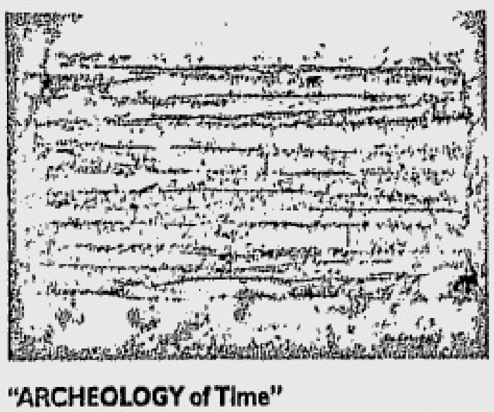
Enriquez's art, however, is not always beyond the profane (as in the erotically charged images) or even above the banal (as in his busts of people). Witness "Bronze Images," until Oct. 4 in The Drawing Room at Met-

SOUL/ E3

Figures from abstraction

From page E1


"RED Tiles"


"ARCHEOLOGY of Time"

straction, in the line of Rothko and Pollock, has died. Pop Art has blended with commercial art."

More spiritual art

In "Cante Jondo," a rough piece in gray and brown, one can still make out the form of a guitar.

In "I Will Always Wait for You," in a harsh impasto of gray and white, one can also make out the figure of a chair (like an electric chair). The roughness of the image belies a tender theme, that of the artist waiting for his 9-year-old son to come home.

The series "Tiles," in pure colors of blue, red and yellow neonlike in intensity, could be abstract patterns, but the overlapping curvilinear forms look, indeed, like tile roofing. The artist says this was inspired by his stay in Spain.

The fascination with architectural details recurs in other pieces, such as "Homage to Pablo Antonio," a triptych in gray, with denim swatches and strings arranged like bricks of a staircase then spattered with white, red and ochre acrylic. The artist says this was inspired by the stairs in Manila Polo Club, the structure done by the National Artist in Architecture.

In "Column," a beige monochrome, the strips of fabric hazily form a classical column. The incorporated text speaks about how things disappear—political systems, economies, ideologies change or crumble, but art prevails.

Outright figuration can be seen in "Flying Horses: Xian Series" 1-4. The pieces depict galloping horses outlined in black and colored orange on a red background, yellow on brown, black on white and white on blue. The artist says this was inspired by his stay in China.

There are a few abstract pieces, such as "Blue Waters." But even here, in the lovely bluish and white spattering, one senses the Mediterranean.

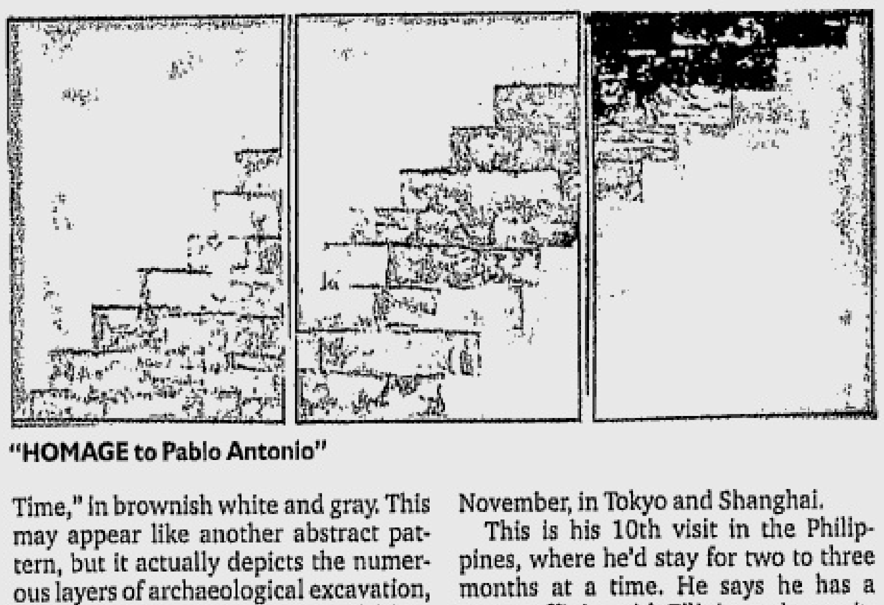
"Beyond Silence," however, is purely abstract, a wash of brownish white with a bluish underpaint.

"I've been an abstractionist for the last 20 years," says Serrán-Pagán. "I feel, and I think, the abstract is more spiritual. It's a language of feeling. It's a language of silence. Now I'm looking for a more expressionist style."

Folk inspiration

He didn't go to art school, but studied humanities in Seville, then took up masteral and doctoral studies in anthropology and archaeology in New York University.

The "Flying Horses" series may be a product of this archaeological interest, as Xian was where the famed terra-cotta warriors and horses were excavated. The four pieces have positively the air of cave paintings.


"HOMAGE to Pablo Antonio"

More obvert is "Archaeology of Time," in brownish white and gray. This may appear like another abstract pattern, but it actually depicts the numerous layers of archaeological excavation, represented by parallel strips of fabric glued on the canvas.

Life, he says, has been his teacher in art-making. He has been pushed into creation while living with various tribes of Native Americans, particularly the Sioux people, and with the peasants and fishermen in Tahiti, China, Japan, India, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Philippines.

"I'm very interested in folk art," he says. "American Indian art has a very strong influence on my art, particularly its use of strong color."

His first exhibition was held in the Guggenheim Museum of New York in 1980. He has since exhibited in over 120 shows in 15 countries. In October, he'll hold a show in Spain, and in November, in Tokyo and Shanghai.

This is his 10th visit in the Philippines, where he'd stay for two to three months at a time. He says he has a strong affinity with Filipino culture, citing the architecture, the language of Zamboanga and the local artists whom he find very strong in painting.

In the course of his visits, he has befriended National Artists Jerry Navarro, Arturo Luz and José Joya, Juvenal Sansó, Lao Lianben, Gus Albor, Romulo Olazo and Alan Cosio.

He has a few advice to local art buyers and collectors, though. First, they should buy only that for which they feel strongly about. The painting has to talk to them. They should get a feeling from the artwork.

Second, they should meet the artist, if possible. That way, they would better understand the artwork and learn a lot about art.

DM Guevarra collection is a heritage lesson

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE DM Guevara Collection had traveled from one home to another since the late 1970's until it was forced into storage. It has come back to public display at the Museo De La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The collection is an outstanding depiction of the daily lifestyle of the lowland Christian Filipino from the last century—the Ilocano, Tagalog, Pampango, Pangasinense, Bicolano, Waray, Cebuano and Ilonggo. Its being at the Museo completes a dimension missing from the La Salle collection.

The Guevara Collection brings the forgotten and often unappreciated heritage of the everyday. In the opulent *illustrado* house that is the Museo De La Salle, silver *carrozas* are permanently decked out, ready for the next religious procession.

The family quarters on the upper level of the house is fitted out with the best of Philippine, Chinese and European hand-made furniture. Its doors are heavily carved of Philippine hardwood. Silk and damask hangings swath *kapis* windows. Hand-painted murals cover the walls.

The long dining table is set with an heirloom Sèvres dinner service and heavy silver cutlery. The large kitchen accommodates a crew of cooks and servants plus a battery of equipment ready to cook the feasts that are routine for the house.

Generally all *illustrado* houses in the country were furnished similarly, equipped in a manner that reflected the lifestyle that was the *illustrado* everyday.

The Guevara Collection, on the other hand, is about another everyday lifestyle that existed at the turn of the last century hand in hand with the *illustrado*. The collection shows the objects kept by the grass-roots Filipino in his house, kitchen, yard and farm.

These are the objects used to cook in the rural kitchen, to roast and grind coffee, and to wash and press clothes. There are farm implements for tilling, planting and harvesting, including well-worn yokes that once hitched beasts of burden to their plows.

Humble as these objects may be, the excellence of the craftsmanship that went into their making elevates each object from humble origins to design and artistic showcases.

More complete view

With both collections complementing one another, museum visitors now have a more complete view of colonial society—from the *illustrados* who set the pace in those days to the grass-roots folk whose work provided the backbone for the *illustrado* lifestyle and whose industry kept the rest of the country going.

The DM Guevara Collection was once the private collection of the late Carmen S. Guevara. It was among the first collections of Filipino artifacts to change from private hands to institutional. Guevara felt that turning over the collection she had so painstakingly put together to an institution would ensure its care for posterity. She then established the Guevara Foundation in 1977 and founded the country's first lifestyle museum, the Museo ng Buhay Pilipino.

The Museo collection told the story of the Spanish colonial lifestyle in the Philippines. It was the only place where the public could see the clothing, jewelry, furniture, *palayok* and pans that were kept in typical ancestral homes. There also were baskets, farm implements and artifacts from rural areas.

It was at the Museo where I discovered what makes the Filipino, an interest that continues to this day.

Recently, the DM Guevara Foundation bequeathed the collection to the Museo De La Salle.

Stewardship is the concept that the Museo De La Salle is built upon. Most of the Museo's collection once belonged to the Panlilio family of Bacolor in Pampanga. The Pinatubo eruption caused *lahar* to swamp their ancestral home, so the family decided to entrust their heirlooms to an institution that would commit to its permanent care.

The González-Arnedo family, also of Pampanga, faced similar issues regarding the future of its heirlooms. They were in search of a custodian that could ensure the maintenance of the family heritage into the future. De La Salle accepted the custodianship of both the collections, pledging the construction of a museum to house the artifacts.

To augment the Panilio and González collections, Jaime Laya furnished a bedroom with outstanding pieces from his private collection. Other collectors either loaned or donated pieces to complement the collection.

Unique

The spirit of philanthropy that has built the Museo De La Salle is what makes the museum unique in the country.

Collecting goes beyond being just a hobby. There is joy in the process of collecting, and building up a collection takes a long process that demands total commitment. A collection is never completed, however. It eventually reaches such proportión and significance that permanence and continuity become a major consideration.

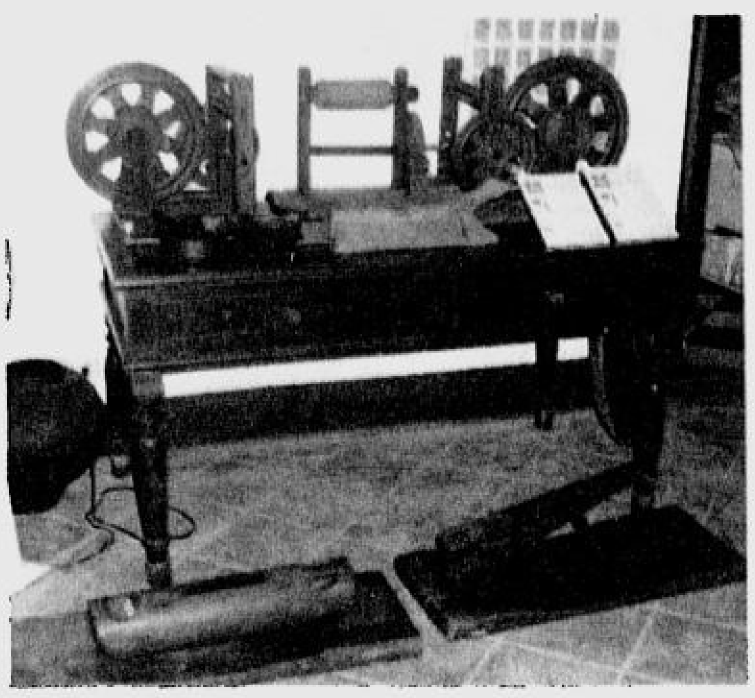
As families disperse, children sometimes fail to appreciate the collections that they have inherited. More than private individuals, it is the institutions, whether government or private, that are equipped to care for collections. The Museo De La Salle has taken on the responsibility of ensuring the permanence and continuity of the collections entrusted to it.

Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC talked about giving up his own collection of artifacts to the Museo. He said, "I realize that I must let go [of my collection] and let go graciously, to the point of making it a fine art."

Seeing the Guevara collection evoked pure nostalgia. I renewed acquaintance with the pieces that were objects of marvel in my younger days, that taught me the uniqueness of the Filipino culture. After doing conservation work for years, I now look at the Guevara collection from the perspective of how such beautiful artifacts tell the story of the Filipino people. Thus, they are powerful educational tools.

For information or bookings to the Museo, call 8447832 local 3151.

E-mail your comments and feedback to afvillalon@hotmail.com



VINTAGE coffee grinding and spinning equipment from the Guevara Collection.

Heritage collections are a powerful tool for education

Soul of bronze

From page E2

rostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City.

The exhibit, his first in the country, showcases 12 pieces in bronze ranging from small- to medium- and full-scale.

Most are busts, such as "Nanay," presumably a portrait of the artist's youngish-looking mother; "St. Ignatius Death Mask," giving off a pale glow behind a dark scrim; "Shedding of Innocence," depicting a nude girl in a highly mannered, arm-twisting pose.

"Breastplate" is a literal rendering of an armor plate shaped like naked female breasts.

"Longing" is a male torso, a manacled man with outstretched arms breaking his chains.

Some of the figures are full-length but small in scale.

"Redemption" is a tableau of a male angelic figure carrying in his arms a female nude. Here a religious theme has been somewhat eroticized.

"Intensity" is a small yet fervid spectacle of two nudes with featureless faces, copulating on a surface made to look like spilled liquid. One might even say this verges on the pornographic, if only it could move.

"Forsaken" depicts a half-naked male figure in a despairing posture, one of the most graphic portraits of abandonment ever committed in bronze.

One can see that emotion, as suggested by the facial and body contortions of the figures, is a prime element in Enriquez's art. In this sense, he deviates from the classical and follows the tradition of the Baroque.

Ian Veneracion...

From page E7

ALLIANCE Total Gallery presents "Mirrored Images" on Oct. 6-31 at Alliance Francaise de Manille (209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati). The exhibit features 24 prints in varied techniques done by Amble Ambano, Benjamin Torrado Cabrera, Cha Rodrigo, Tita Rosel, Jess Flores, Lenore RS Lim and Manuel Rodriguez, Sr.

GALLERIA Duemila features Denise Weldon's "Photographs" on Oct. 2-17 at the 4th level, SM Megamall A. The show offers large-scale black-and-white photos depicting human figures and still life.

LE SOUFFLÉ Bistro mounts the works of Ugnayan '80, composed of UST Fine Arts alumni from Classes 1955-1960. The works cover a wide range of media and subjects. Ugnayan was formed in 1980 and its original advisers were National Artist Vicente Manansala and Galo Ocampo, UST fine arts professors. The show will be held on Oct. 3-31 at 2/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

THE LOPEZ-Ayala-Ateneo-Museo Pambata museums present "Zero-In: Essence and Sympathies" until Mar. 15, 2004 at G/F Benpres Bldg., Ortigas Center. The exhibit is a showcase of Filipino artists who left the Philippines to find work or study with the masters.

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery showcases Francisco Pellicer Viri's "The Reality of Abstraction" on Oct. 14-26 at Artwalk, SM Megamall. The series of watercolors to be presented in this show were inspired by the gardens-as-sculpture of Jerusalino Araos.

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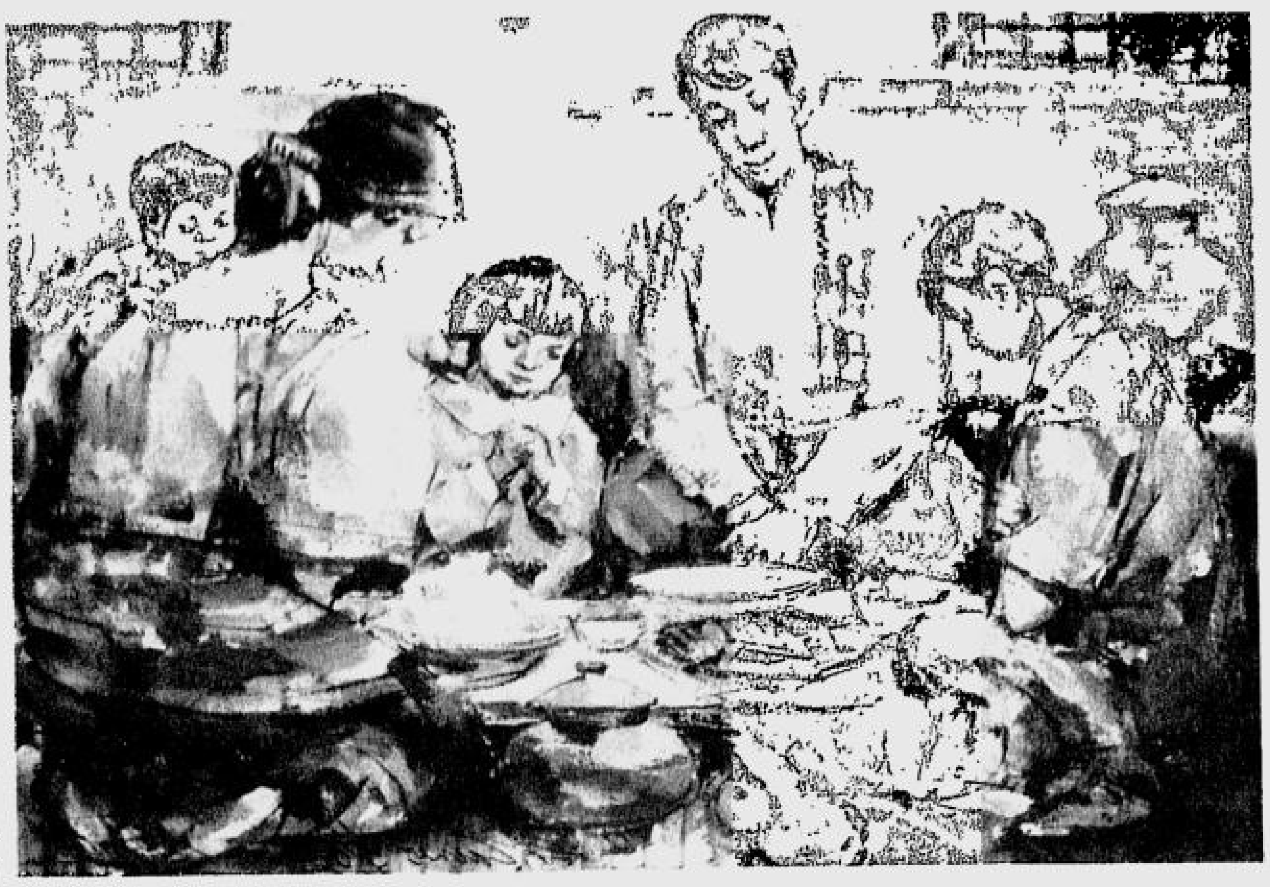
Angel of art

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor


"HAPAG Kainan"

HIS narration of his artistic life is often punctuated with "*awa ng Diyos...*," indicative of a deep faith which has been greatly rewarded by a fruitful career spanning almost 50 years. Quite a feat, considering the fickle-minded industry and its patrons.

Consistency and loyalty to his chosen subject have buoyed Angel Cacnio, standing by his Filipiniana even when the moderns reigned supreme. To this day, there is no lull in this artist, his paintings enjoying an enthusiastic following locally and abroad.

Though Cacnio earned his Fine Arts degree from the University of the Philippines in 1954, his contemporaries, among them Napoleon Abueva, Federico Aguilar Alcuaz and Jose Joya, graduated a year earlier. In typical UP fashion, he had stayed behind to fulfill some liberal arts requirements. As a student, he garnered accolades in competitions: he was one of the first Shell Art awardees.

From 1957, he worked with Roces Publications, which also had under its employ Vicente Manansala and Cesar Legaspi. His current works still hint of this near decade-long period as an illustrator. Evident are his skills in conveying movement and faces alight with expression. In his own collection are works in black tempera against white backgrounds, perhaps done in fond remembrance of those days.

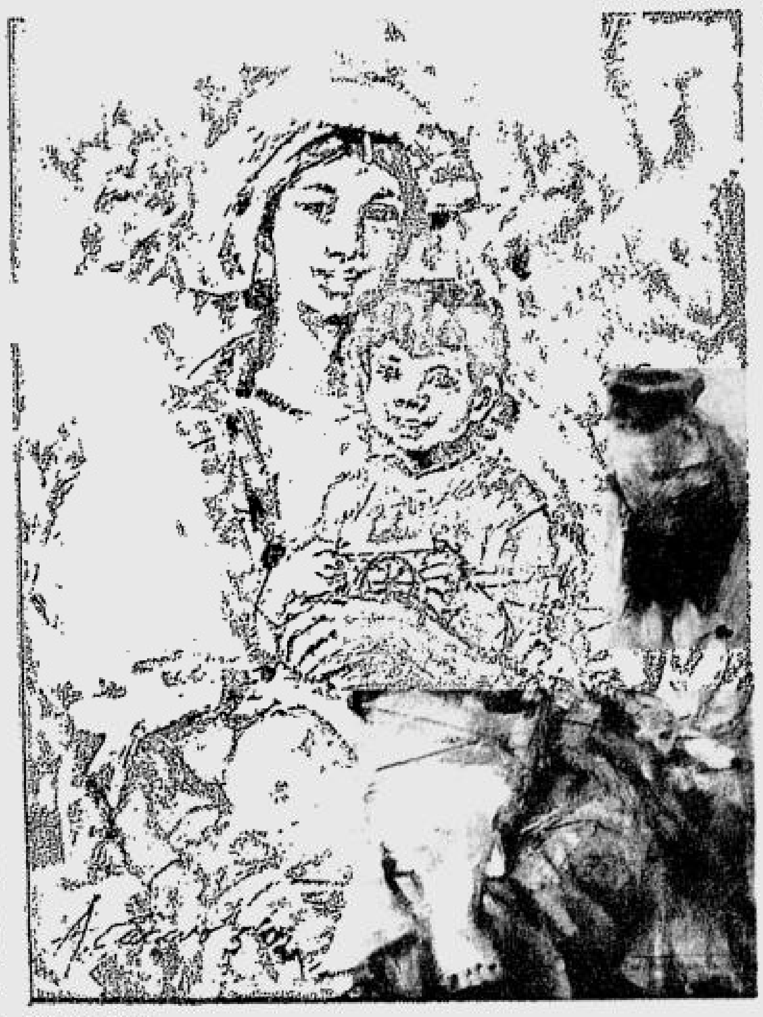
Because he had to raise a family, his art, he admits, somehow took a backseat. In the '70s, several of his coin designs won in a competition. This led to his being commissioned in the early '80s to execute the images of legal tender, some still currently in circulation. The P100 and P20 bills now exchanged daily are Cacnio originals.

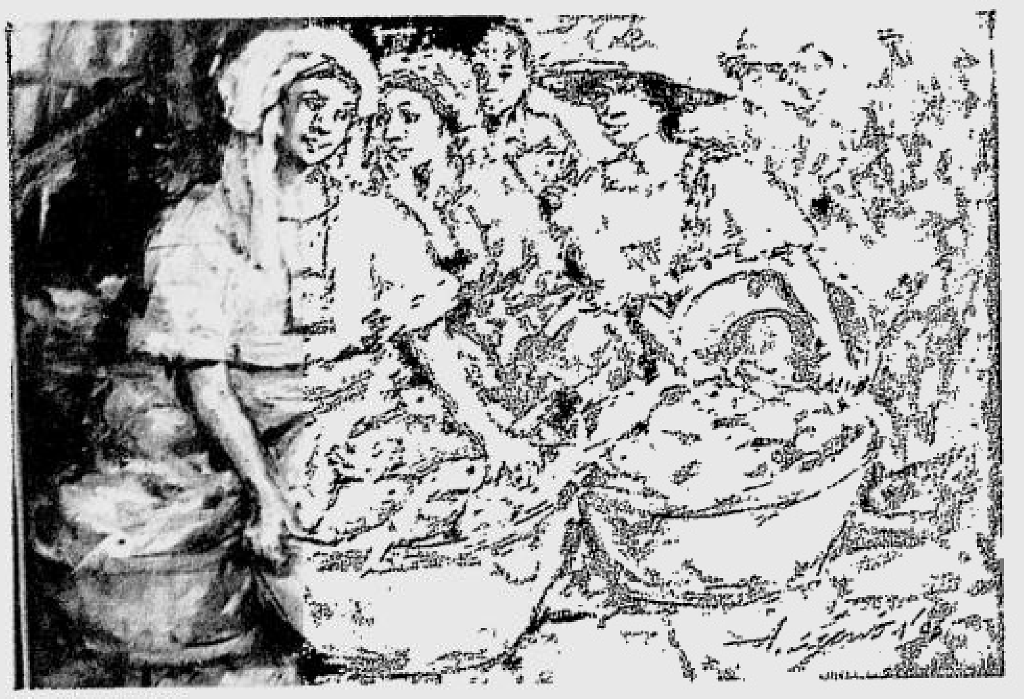
One may recall the objection raised by several sectors against the release of the P100 design, questioning the presence of the American flag on Philippine money. But for Cacnio, McNutt's lowering of the American flag while ours was raised against it, was a celebration of the country finally coming into its own. As his compositions show, his patriotism is fervent.

The '80s brought in significant turns, beginning with a trip to the United States where Filipino expatriates snatched up his work, wanting a piece of the homeland. Clientele was not limited to Pinoys, however. Apparently, the scenes on Cacnio's canvases capture the essence of our culture—oneness as a family, hospitality, humility, "kaugalian" in general. Traits endearing to foreigners, greatly missed by *balikbayans*. Cacnio himself personifies these traits.

An Edsa-themed work of Cacnio has also seen greater circulation upon its printing as a commemorative postage stamp benefiting the Philippine Tuberculosis Society.

His latest works, which may be characterized as ideal and idyll, is on exhibit in the show "Angel Cacnio: Artist for the Nation." Filipino dress, whether the *baro't saya* or T'boli garb, is a staple in his works. They reiterate that "kasuotan" represent Filipinos as a people. It is a relief, and exceptionally admirable, that an artist these days is able to constantly exalt our identity, despite the odds.


"MAG-INA"


"BULUNGAN"

No angst

His is art sans angst. Each of his paintings, he says, have a world all their own, careful to show his figures in full. Always, he uses colors for connotation. Red for the energy of life, white and muted pastels for purity and cleanliness. The jars that occasionally grace his works contain water—again a reference to life. Though he is fond of contrasts, saying that just as in a day, "*may araw at may gabi*," he is careful that an agreeable balance is always achieved. This is part of his conscious effort to always project "honesty and happiness." A glowing candle against a sombre background, for instance, is a light that represents "energy and inspiration."

Keen observation is what he utilizes most. Further, he says, to be psychic, were it possible, would come in handy, for he pays close attention to the facial expressions of his subjects. From scenes of fish vendors inspired by the fishing port of Malabon, where he lives, to cockfight enthusiasts, a family saying grace before meals, or a father doting on his child, Cacnio is able to pan on a myriad of emotions.

Cacnio attributes his success to "handling and maintaining good opportunities well." His aim is "to promote in Philippine art love, hospitality, and beauty above all," and his wish is for "unity of all Filipinos." His concerns are God and nature. He shuns politics. Thoughts should be noble and genuine, so that Filipinos could gain fortitude and resilience.

An ivory tower, maybe, but with his watercolors awash with joie de vivre and his oils thick with his nationalistic zeal, one just has to step back, relish his work, and agree he does exactly that.

Angel Cacnio's latest exhibit is on view until Oct. 5 at Gallery Nine, 4/F Bldg. B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 6877302.

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EDUCATION REVOLUTION

'Eggs-perience' shows barangay how children can learn better

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

ABOUT 500 children go to the 11 classrooms of the Barangay Sala Elementary School in Cabuyao, Laguna. The pupils' rely on the school's 11 teachers to teach them and prepare them for life. This has not been easy because the teachers of Barangay Sala ES—like many other public school teachers—have only meager resources.

Some of the 10,000 barangay residents live in subdivisions in fairly decent surroundings, but majority are poor or live below the poverty line.

Still, hope springs eternal for this agro-industrial community. The barangay council, led by chair Amelito Alimagno, has been actively reaching out to organizations that can help improve the quality of education in Barangay Sala Elementary School.

Recently, the council got in touch with the Foundation for Worldwide People Power after hearing about the Education Revolution from volunteer community workers from the Assumption College.

FWWPP area coordinator Shirley Hapatinga needed only 15 minutes and two fresh eggs to illustrate the crucial role the community played in the education of its youth.

BARANGAY councilmen go through the free-falling egg exercise.

She asked the barangay councilmen to divide themselves into two groups and handed each group a fresh egg that was to be dropped from six feet. Each group had to find a way to cushion the fall so the egg would not break using whatever materials were on hand at the time.

Both groups succeeded in the exercise. Shirley then explained that the egg symbolized the children in the community and the participants in each group the different social sectors.

The exercise clearly illustrated to the councilmen the first lesson of the Education Revolution they had to learn—identify the resources they had and work together to use the resources for community development.

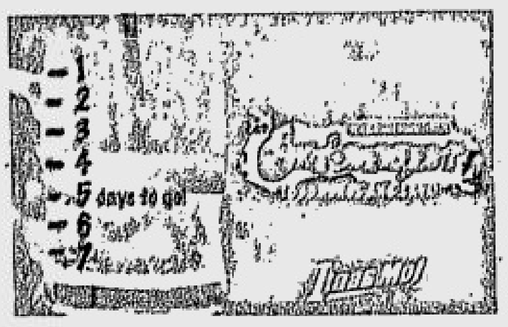
Roughly half of the able-bodied men in the barangay are employed as laborers or drivers but a big beer company and a textile manufacturer operate in Barangay Sala.

Jojo Hersia, councilman in charge of education, has begun to gather data on the community to prepare a school adoption program focused on making the children of Barangay Sala learn better.

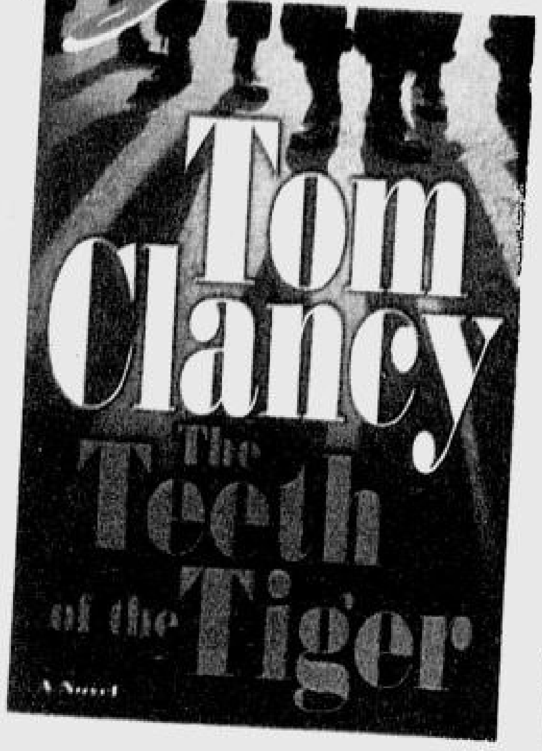
The author is the executive director of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.

FWWPP area coordinator Shirley Hapatinga discusses the Education Revolution with the barangay council.

VISA
All it takes.


1 2 3 4 5 days to go! 6 7

Tom Clancy bares his 'Teeth' again



After the toothless 'Red Rabbit,' the spymaster introduces a new generation of spies, including the son of Jack Ryan

"The Teeth of The Tiger"
By Tom Clancy
(G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 2003, 431 pages)

By Ruel S. De Vera

REVIEW

BETWEEN the lackluster motion picture adaptation of "The Sum of All Fears" and his misfiring 12th novel "Red Rabbit," Tom Clancy knows now that going back to the past isn't something his fans enjoy. Yes, they miss the field antics of Jack Ryan, but the ex-spook has already become President of the United States so he isn't going to be back rescuing Russian submarines. And while the enigmatic John Clark stepped into the frontline in other books, it was clear that Clancy needed something totally new to reinvent the techno-thriller in a post 9/11, post Cold-War era.

The good news is that he manages to do just that in the nick of time with "The Teeth of the Tiger," an efficient, effective if somewhat predictable operation that's ripped straight out of the world's headlines. Clancy displays much of the smarts that had been missing from his work since Ryan got bumped upstairs.

Another Ryan

He injects life back into the franchise by recruiting another Ryan—John Patrick Ryan, Jr.—also known as Little Jack, the ex-president's son. A tech and numbers whiz, Jack 2.0 sniffs out a new, top-secret organization within the US government that has been formed to deal with terrorist threats without legal restrictions. This very mysterious group has no name, though they call it The Campus. It was created to resolve the tricky situations that have arisen after America declared war on terrorism, and is not afraid to use extreme means to achieve its ends. And Junior—the only "Jack" relevant to our discussion—has become The Campus' newest, and only, walk-in.

All those developments occur just in time with the emergence of an even more mysterious terrorist organization of Islamic militants with no name as well, but in this case, called The Organization for convenience. Not only is The Organization cementing an unholy alliance with a drug-dealing cartel. It has diabolical plans of its own. After a daring and shocking terrorist strike by The Organization, The Campus engages in the first main event between nameless groups by sending its own man to assassinate The Organization's key people.

The weapons: Young Jack Ryan's own cousins, Marine Brian Caruso and FBI Agent Dominic Caruso. Yes, it is "Ryan: The Next Generation." Jack provides the intel and the two fly around the world ready to rock and roll. Shades of the elder Jack Ryan and John Clark, indeed, and a sudden development in the field near the ending of the book makes it even clearer just how much Clancy is willing to replicate these rookies. He clearly has big plans for this trio.

Though it's not an entirely novel solution, it actually works. The new Jack is more cerebral, more proactive (read: excitable) than his father and is determined to make his own way without invoking his father's considerable influence. Similarly, the Caruso brothers (fraternal twins) provide a relatively lighter but no less interesting vibe as the two neophytes must grapple with the new rules of engagement in a war without clear guidelines.

Grittier

Despite the fact that it is set very much in the present tense, "Teeth" possesses neither ambiguity nor ambivalence regarding its loyalties. Readers may feel that Clancy is engaging in a bit of flag-waving, but that's essential to the Ryan pantheon. What's particularly notable is how Clancy eschews the broad battlefield feel of "The Bear and the Dragon" to commit to the grittier, if more confined spy games of "Rainbow Six."

If you are someone diametrically opposed to America's antiterror campaign, then "Teeth"

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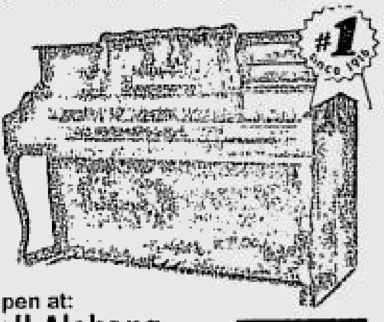

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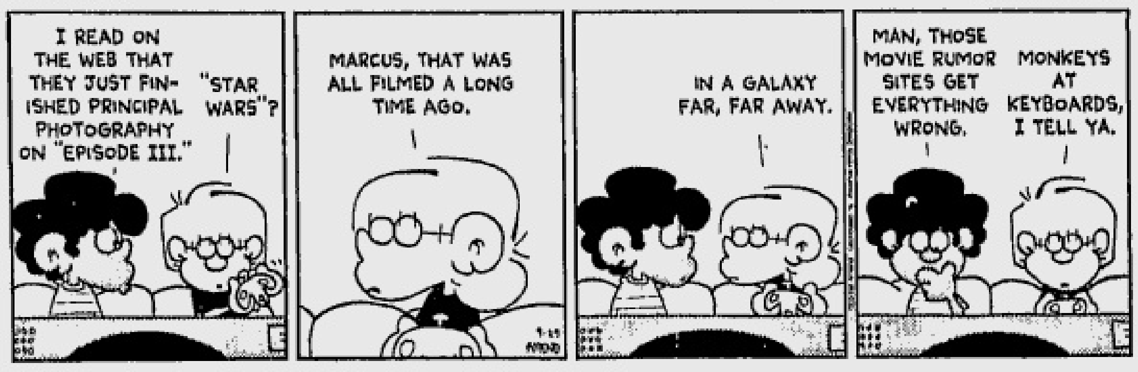
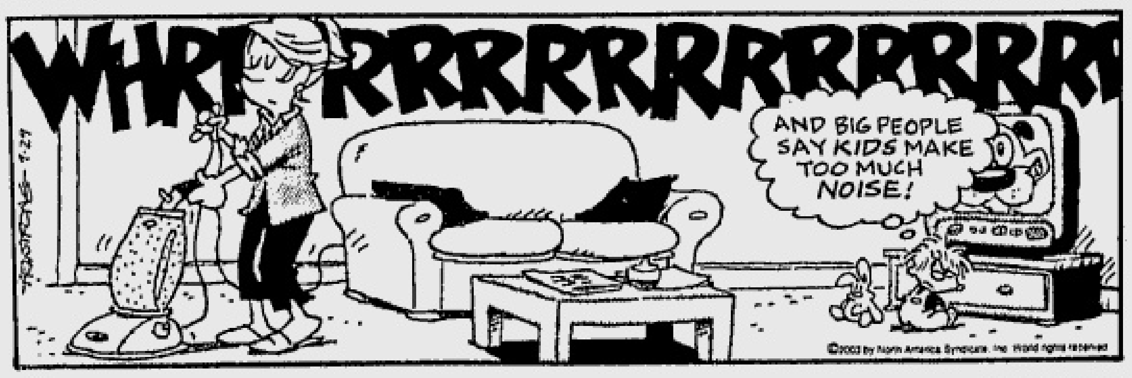
BY BILL AMEND


I READ ON THE WEB THAT THEY JUST FINISHED PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY ON "EPISODE III."
"STAR WARS"?
MARCUS, THAT WAS ALL FILMED A LONG TIME AGO.
IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY.
MAN, THOSE MOVIE RUMOR SITES GET EVERYTHING WRONG.
MONKEYS AT KEYBOARDS, I TELL YA.

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
AND BIG PEOPLE SAY KIDS MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE!
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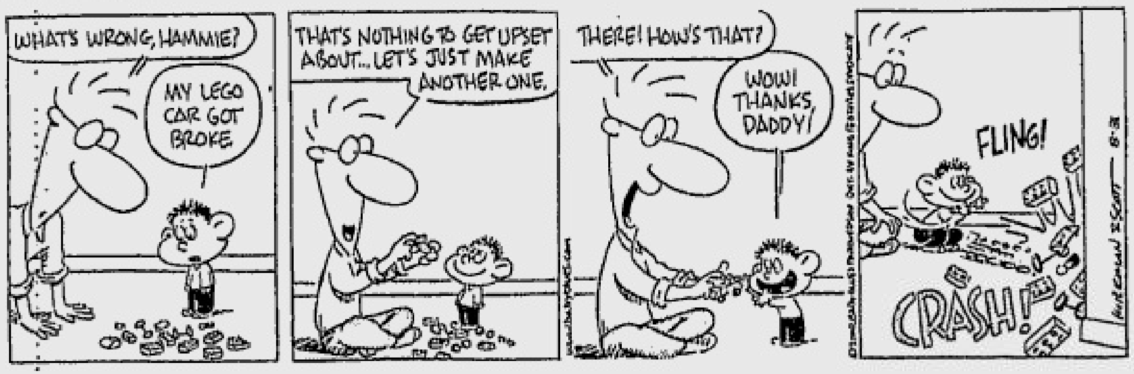
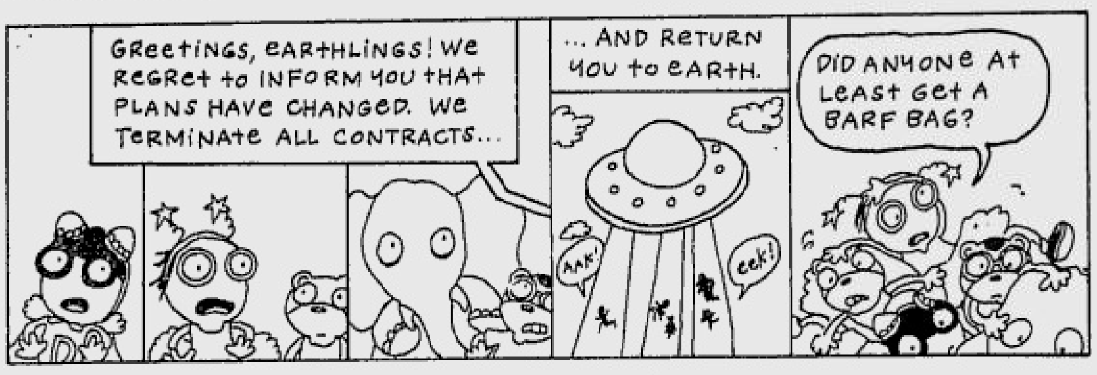
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S WRONG, HAMMIE?
MY LEGO CAR GOT BROKE
THAT'S NOTHING TO GET UPSET ABOUT... LET'S JUST MAKE ANOTHER ONE.
THERE! HOW'S THAT?
WOW! THANKS, DADDY!
FLING!
CRASH!

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS! WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT PLANS HAVE CHANGED. WE TERMINATE ALL CONTRACTS...
... AND RETURN YOU TO EARTH.
AAK!
eek!
DID ANYONE AT LEAST GET A BARF BAG?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are extremely capable in whatever you do. You often have a particular technical proficiency. You feel intensely about things. It's important that you believe in yourself. You like to have a stable family situation. Expect to have more solitude in the year ahead, because there is something important that you have to learn or study.

Birthdate of: Natasha Wagner, actress; Jerry Lee Lewis, musician; Anita Ekberg, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Love relationships are particularly intense today. All your dealings with others are emotional, dramatic and profound. Goodness, it's just that kind of day.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have a strong desire to improve your health today, or if not that, then your job. You want to turn over a new leaf. You want a better, brighter future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New love that begins today will be unusually passionate and physical. It could change your life. There is a transcendental quality to relationships today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a marvelous day to get better organized at home. Clean up and throw stuff away. You'll find it easy to get rid of junk. And you know how much stuff you have.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Even a casual relationship might have a peculiar, "fated" quality to it today. Everything seems bigger than life. Messages and portent seem to be everywhere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You feel pleasantly obsessed about wanting to buy something today. You probably should do it. It's likely that you will never regret it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Any emotion that you feel today will have extraordinary force and intensity. Nothing is superficial. Everything is strong and vigorous. You feel alive and full of energy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might learn interesting secrets today, possibly about somebody else's love life. It's as if your intuition is turned all the way up. You can practically read people's minds.

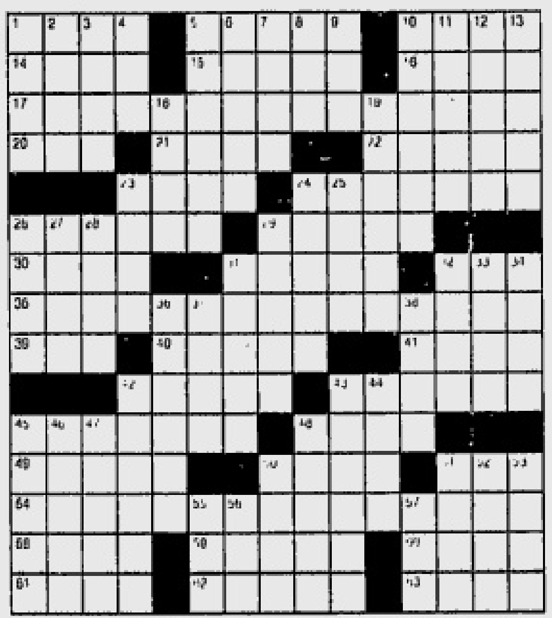
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Discussions with a friend will be revealing and meaningful today. People easily share secrets now. You have to be discreet. (You'll be glad you did.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Something or someone might be removed in order to put you in a better position today at work. Certain transformations take place now that give you an advantage.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might meet someone who teaches you something very powerful today. In fact, you could learn something that actually changes your life.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Someone is willing to give you something today that is definitely worth accepting. It might be something tangible. It could be money; it might be an advantage, some advice or a loan of something. Whatever it is, take it.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Mark Moldowsky
Huntington, NY
9/29/03

ACROSS
1 Mexican money
5 The Evil One
10 Diminishes
14 Bruins' sch.
15 Untethered
16 Person, place or thing
17 Press
20 Pull behind
21 Morsel of food
22 Magna __
23 Type size
24 Ridiculed
26 Recently
29 Of the kidneys
30 Warm up
31 Fable writer
32 Slippery one
35 Press
39 Fr. holy woman
40 Caravan stops
41 Shaving-cream additive
42 Happy face
43 Ancient Central Americans
45 Friendly
48 Hertz rival
49 Ancient country on the Aegean
50 Valhalla leader
51 Demented
54 Press
58 Owl's call
59 Type of energy
60 Square measure
61 Picnic crawlers
62 Abounding in rocks
63 Mournful wail

DOWN
1 Green stroke
2 Reverberate
3 Large amount
4 Klutz
5 Millstream channel
6 Main artery
7 Carryall
8 End of a cigar
9 Society page word
10 Necessitate
11 Get on
12 Montana city
13 Slammin' Sammy
18 Brief death notice
19 Predicament
23 Meat paste
24 Escritoires
25 Chemical compound
26 Units of resistance
27 Remarkable deed
28 Seneca or Huron
29 Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"
31 Theater passage
32 Perry's creator
33 Fairness in the workplace grp.
34 Majors and Marvin
36 Stocky marsupial
37 Fence piece
38 Minnesota __
42 New Orleans team
43 Room full of birds
44 Metallic element
45 Greek letter
46 Accordionist Floren
47 Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"
48 Mad. Ave. pro
50 Christiania, today
51 Spanish painter Joan
52 Once again
53 Settlement
55 Sibilant letter
56 Decay
57 Rural stack

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	U	S	E	P	A	D	■	E	L	I	C	I	T
A	L	T	E	R	E	G	O	■	P	A	N	A	M	A
S	E	A	L	A	N	E	S	■	S	W	A	M	P	S
S	A	H	L	■	■	S	E	M	I	S	W	E	E	T
E	R	A	S	E	R	■	S	O	L	■	E	I	R	E
S	Y	N	O	N	Y	M	■	V	O	L	■	N	I	B
■	■	■	F	L	E	A	B	A	N	E	■	T	A	U
S	C	I	F	I	■	N	O	B	■	A	H	O	L	D
L	A	N	■	S	P	Y	P	L	A	N	E	■	■	■
A	R	A	■	T	O	E	■	E	N	T	R	A	P	S
P	O	S	H	■	L	A	D	■	T	O	M	T	I	T
S	T	E	A	M	I	R	O	N	■	■	E	T	T	E
H	E	N	B	I	T	■	P	O	S	T	T	I	M	E
O	N	S	I	T	E	■	E	N	T	A	I	L	E	D
T	E	E	T	E	R	■	S	O	U	P	C	A	N	S

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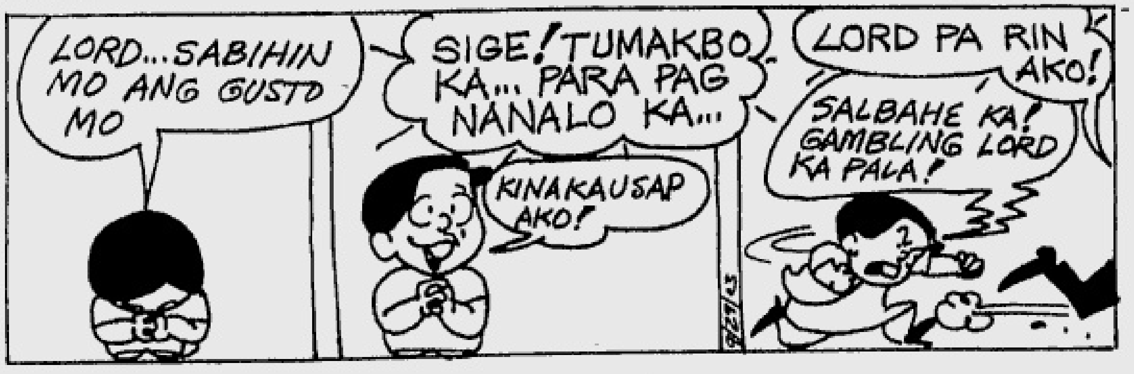
9/29/03

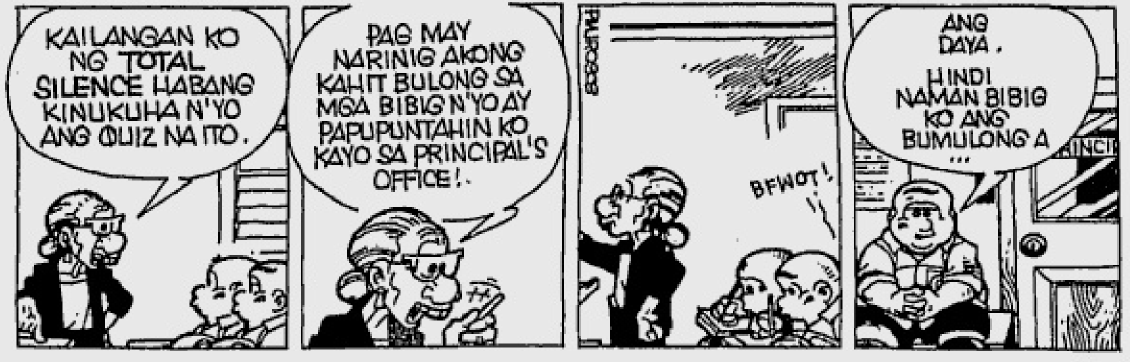
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LORD... SABIHIN MO ANG GUSTO MO
SIGE! TUMAKBO KA... PARA PAG NANALO KA...
KINAKAUSAP AKO!
LORD PA RIN AKO!
SALBAHE KA! GAMBLING LORD KA PALA!

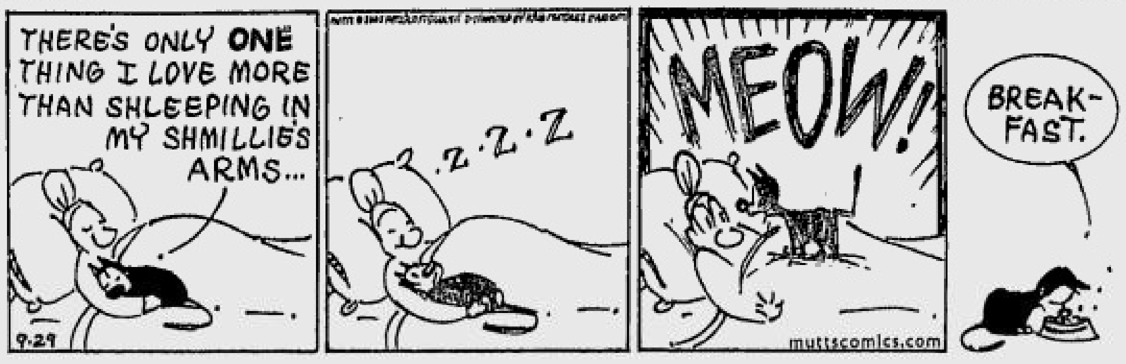
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


KAILANGAN KO NG TOTAL SILENCE HABANG KINUKUHA N'YO ANG QUIZ NA ITO.
PAG MAY NARINIG AKONG KAHIT BULONG SA MGA BIBIG N'YO AY PAPUPUNTAHIN KO KAYO SA PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!
BFWOT!
ANG DAYA. HINDI NAMAN BIBIG KO ANG BUMULONG A...

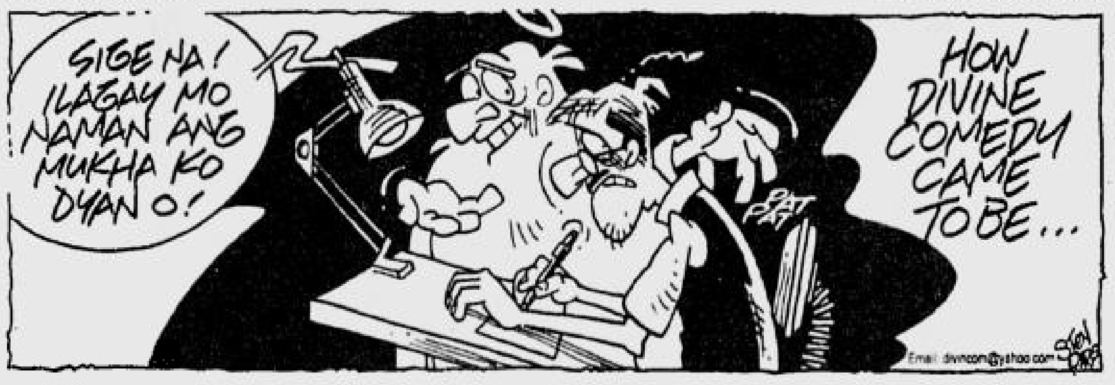
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I LOVE MORE THAN SHLEEPING IN MY SHMILLIE'S ARMS...
Z·Z·Z·Z
MEOW!
BREAK-FAST.
muttscomics.com

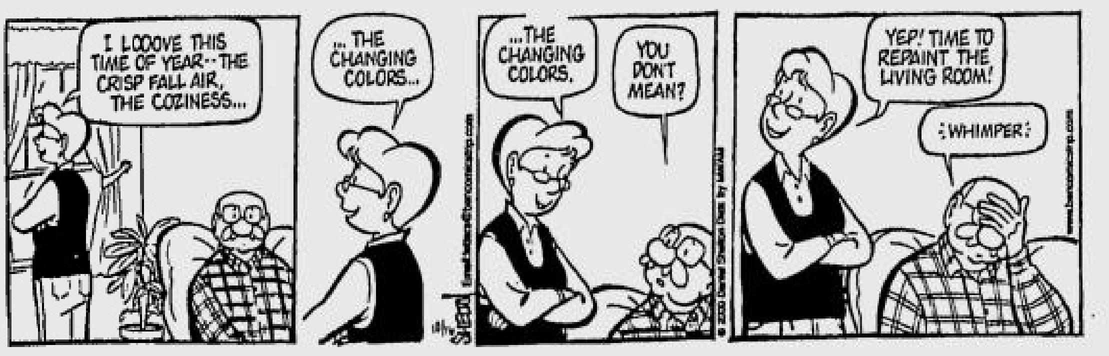
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SIGE NA! ILAGAY MO NAMAN ANG MUKHA KO DYAN O!
HOW DIVINE COMEDY CAME TO BE...
Email: divncom@yahoo.com

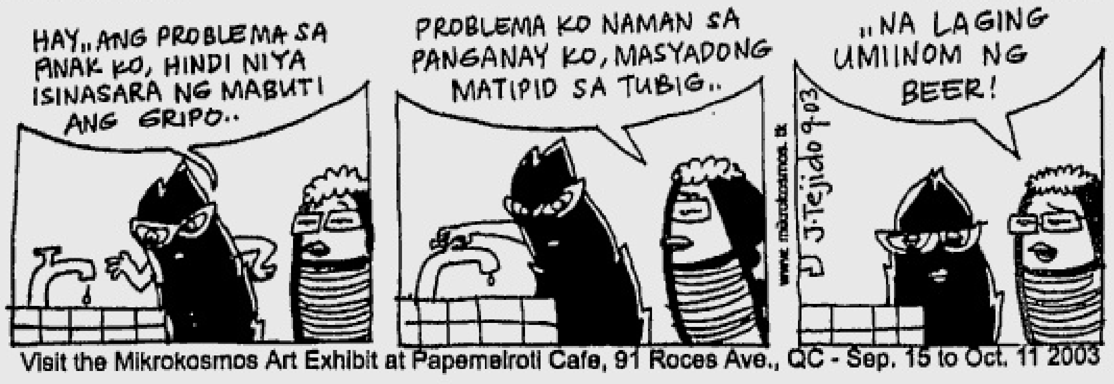
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I LOOOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR -- THE CRISP FALL AIR, THE COZINESS...
... THE CHANGING COLORS...
...THE CHANGING COLORS.
YOU DON'T MEAN?
YEP! TIME TO REPAINT THE LIVING ROOM!
:WHIMPER:

MIKROKOSMOS

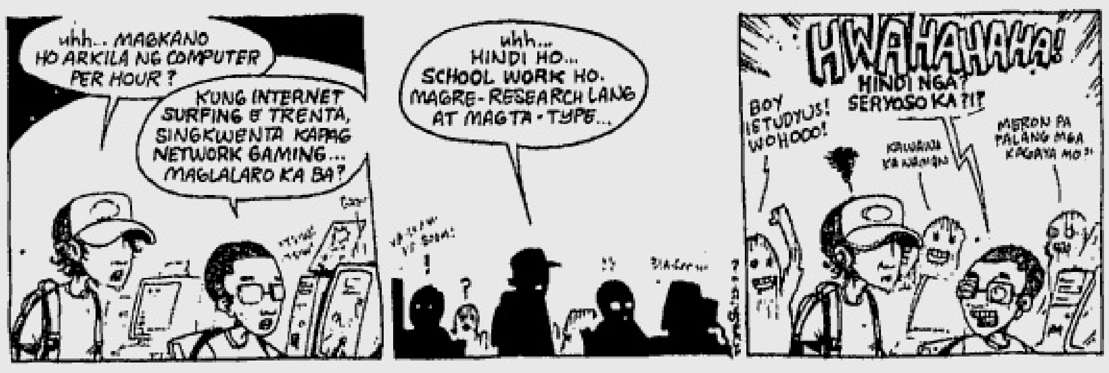
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY.. ANG PROBLEMA SA ANAK KO, HINDI NIYA ISINASARA NG MABUTI ANG GRIPO..
PROBLEMA KO NAMAN SA PANGANAY KO, MASYADONG MATIPID SA TUBIG..
..NA LAGING UMIINOM NG BEER!
J. Tejido 9.03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

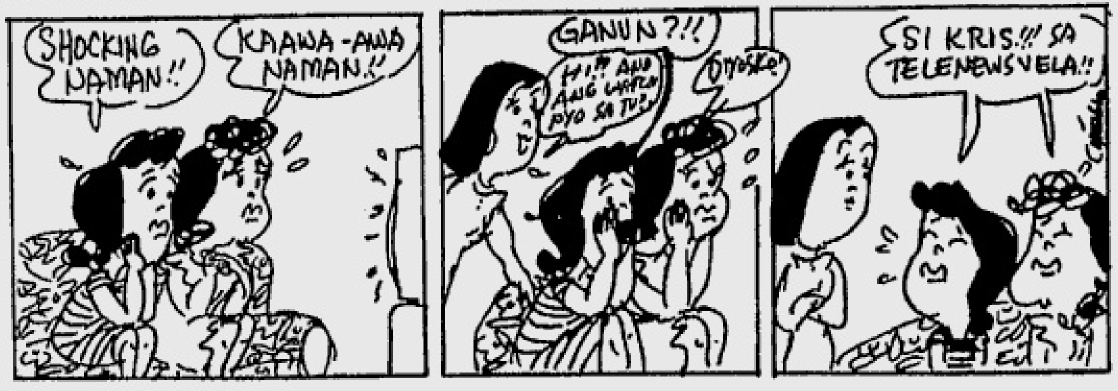
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhh.. MAGKANO HO ARKILA NG COMPUTER PER HOUR?
KUNG INTERNET SURFING E TRENTA, SINGKWENTA KAPAG NETWORK GAMING... MAGLALARO KA BA?
uhh... HINDI HO... SCHOOL WORK HO. MAGRE-RESEARCH LANG AT MAGTA-TYPE...
HWAHAHAHA!
HINDI NGA? SERYOSO KA?!?
BOY ISTUDYUS! WOHOOO!
MERON PA PALANG MGA KAGAYA MO?!

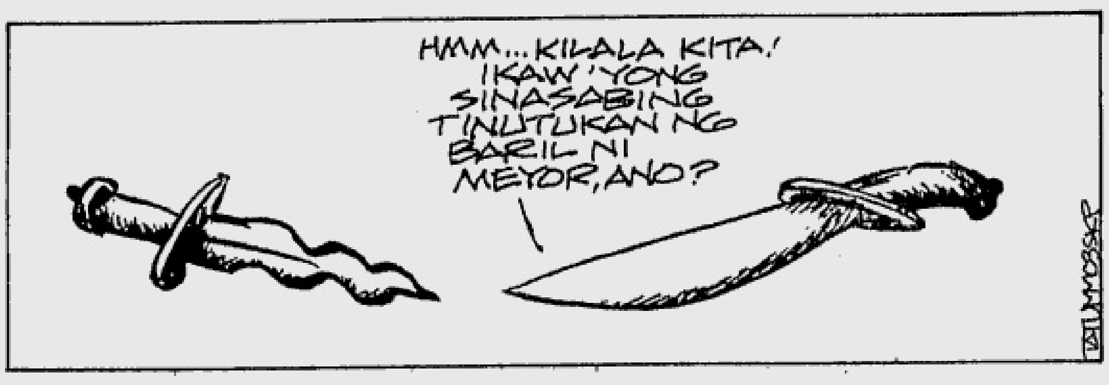
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SHOCKING NAMAN!!
KAAWA-AWA NAMAN!!
GANUN?!!
OMYGOSH!
SI KRIS!!! SA TELENEWSVELA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HMM... KILALA KITA! IKAW 'YONG SINASABING TINUTUKAN NG BARIL NI MEYOR, ANO?

Theater as life force

Stage actess Rustica Carpio shows why drama is life and life, drama

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

REVIEW

life is a stage

THERE are many distinguished men and women who should be national artists by now but for some reason—they lack political patrons, the organizations concerned don't nominate them, they are eliminated, and so forth—they are not. Count among them the late soprano Maestra Mercedes Matias Santiago, who passed away recently; the late Tagalog novelist Lazaro Francisco who died 23 years ago; and Rustica C. Carpio, who is very much alive.

Dr. Carpio is an educator (and former dean), author and scholar, and accomplished actress of stage, screen and television. She has published numerous books, the most recent of which is the collection of essays, "Life is a Stage" (UST Publishing House, 179 pages; tel. 7313152 and 3178).

The drama is the *leitmotif* of this book, and the theme is theater as life force.

"Drama affords us new experiences, introduces us to new people, widens our horizons and enriches our lives," Carpio notes. Students, in particular, get a better grasp of human problems and human emotions. And, as any director will tell you, theater molds character.

But, the author warns, "care must be taken so that it helps not only a few and neglects the others. Let this not be a ground on which will thrive hatred, envy, intrigue."

In "Some Perspectives on Drama: East & West," the longest essay, Carpio examines the classic theater of the East and its impact on Western playwrights, from Voltaire to Jean Genet. She discusses Chinese opera, the Japanese Noh and Kabuki, and how these influenced such writers as Brecht and Genet.

"Yes, drama has journeyed through distances, crossing rivers, traversing lands, undergoing metamorphoses, experiencing upheavals," the author declares. "In reality, it has remained the chronicler of the human condition."

The essay ends with a discussion of our own *moro-moro, zarzuela* and *cenaculo*.

An interesting footnote here is the fact (or story) that the *moro-moro* or *commedia* has its roots in the triumphal march into Cavite in 1637 by the army of Don Sebastian Corcuera, who had defeated the "dauntless" Muslim chieftain Cachil Correlat.

Children on the scene were impressed, and soon they began to stage games with wooden swords and flags; and that is how the *moro-moro*—with its flourishes, colorful costumes, stylized movements, marches and martial music—began.

Actor's life

In "Acting Is Living," the author delves deeper into the life of the stage actor. Is the audience aware of what he and the other theater artists go through?

Nights of rehearsals, sleepless nights, sometimes. Frayed nerves, tension. And on opening night, "excited, everybody breaths a prayer for a successful show. A few flaws come up, but the show must go on… "

Drama and its functions should do more than entertain, Carpio points out.

One drama function found to be effective for problem-solving in clinics, hospitals and classrooms is role playing, in which people act out a certain situation or problem. Involved here are two techniques: the psychodrama (dealing with problems of the individual) and sociodrama (in which social problems come into play).

The group need not always act out a crisis situation; interpreting a field trip, dance or excursion will do.

Japan's Kabuki theater is all drama and spectacle. And the audience, familiar with the story and the text of the play, "now laughs, now cries, now compares notes with seatmates, now chews candies or nuts or fruits." You cannot do that at the CCP! (Well, *siguro sa* Folk Arts *puwede).*

The Noh, on the other hand, exudes "simplicity, bareness and classical beauty."

Spain is represented in this volume. One romantic midnight in Madrid, Carpio witnessed a *tuna*, similar to our *harana* of old. Male university students, dressed in black, leggings and colorful capes, serenaded their girl friends in nearby convent schools, as "wary" nuns watched. The girls showed their appreciation by showering the young men with chocolates and bottles of wine.

And in the Dia de Hispanidad in Manila one evening, a *tuna* was staged by a group from Letran College who performed before a delighted crowd at Letran and, later, at the University of Santo Tomas.

The *tuna* is more than just an attempt at nostalgia, the author concludes. "It is a living confirmation of collective human endeavor, cooperation, and selfless dedication."

Eloquent, readable, with an outlook both inward and outward, "Life is a Stage" brings together the reflections, researches, travels and rich experiences of a Renaissance woman.

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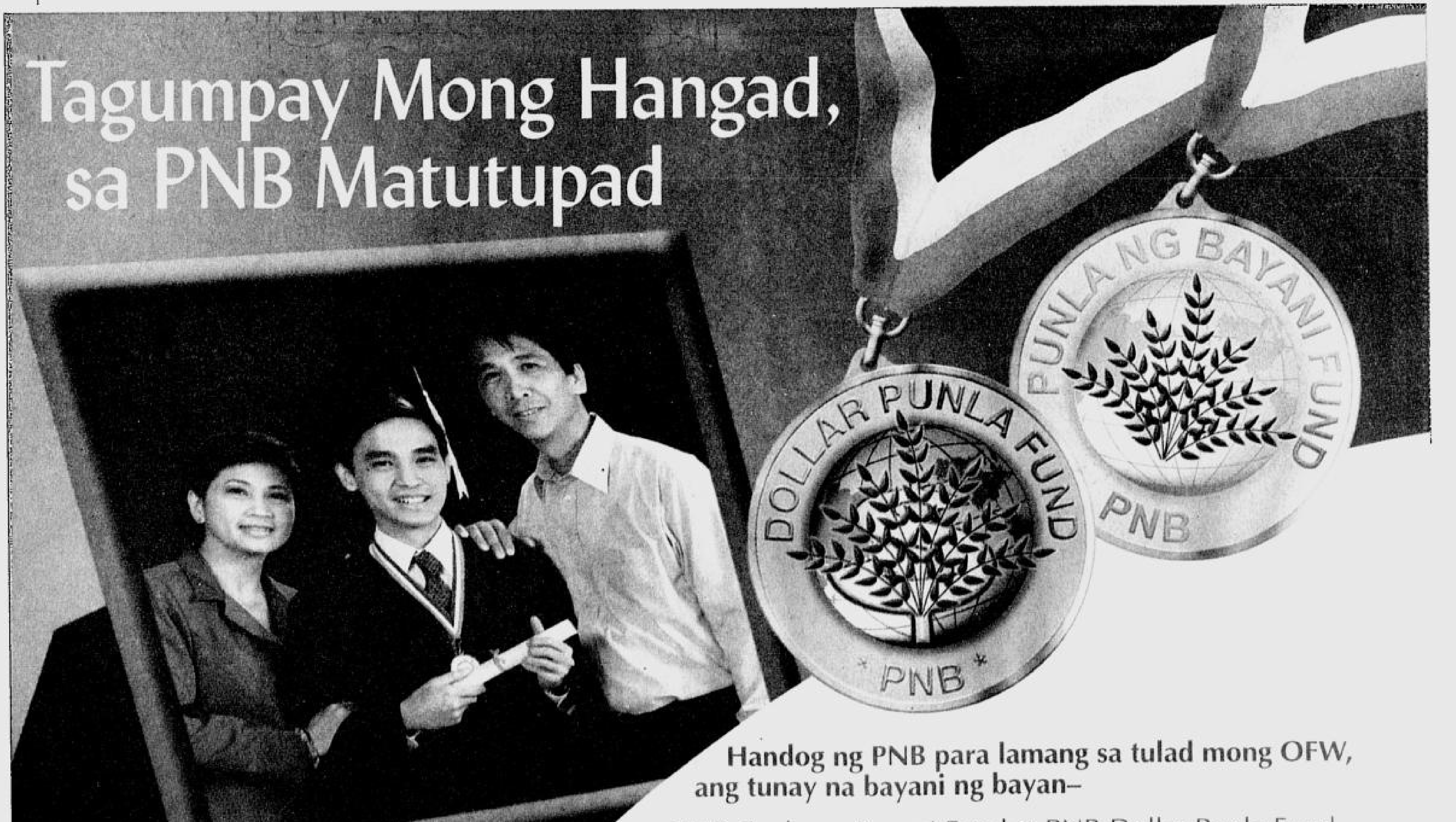
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UST Varsitarian holds 5th national campus journalism workshop

TO PROMOTE excellence and foster camaraderie among campus journalists in the country, The Varsitarian, the 75-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will hold Inkblots 2003: The Fifth UST National Campus Journalism Fellowship on Oct. 23 to 25 at the UST Beato Angelico Building.

The fellowship will consist of seminars in news writing (Lourdes Molina Fernandez of Today), sports writing (Joaquin Henson of Philippine Star), investigative reporting (Sheila Coronel, 2003 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism), features writing (Ruel De Vera of the Sunday Inquirer Magazine), culture and lifestyle writing (Nestor Cuartero of Tempo) and Filipino literature (Vim Nadera of the UP Institute of Creative Writing).

There will also be parallel sessions on column writing, cartooning (Pol Medina, Jr. of Philippine Daily Inquirer), photojournalism (Romeo Gacad of Agence France-Presse), creative non-fiction (Wendell Capili of the UP College of Arts and Letters) and broadcast journalism (Arnold Clavio of GMA 7). There will also be a plenary session on press ethics (Lito Zulueta of INQUIRER), and a panel discussion on "Responsible Campus Journalism as an Effective Tool for Social Change."

The fellowship is open to student writers, campus press advisers, high school journalism instructors, student and school officials wanting to put up their own papers, and to everyone interested in improving campus journalism.

Other invited speakers include Eugenia Duran-Apostol (founder of INQUIRER), Antonio Lopez of BizNews Asia and Rina Jimenez-David of INQUIRER.

Inkblots 2003 will be capped by a farewell dinner during which the Third National Campus Investigative Journalism Awards will be given out. The contest is open to all campus papers.

There will be a P700 registration fee. Deadline for registration is on Oct. 12. Preregistration is required.

Visit the Varsitarian office at Rm. 112, UST Main Building or call 7313101 local 8235 and look for Brix Gil M. Bayuga (0920-4224072) or Elka Krystle R. Requinta (0920-2439119). E-mail varsitar@yahoo.com or register online at www.varsitarian.com.

Book on Clark Field's centenary

TO MARK the centennial of the establishment of Clark Field, New Day Publishers is launching the book "Clark Field and the US Army Air Corps in the Philippines, 1919 to 1942" by American author Richard Meixsel.

The 188-page book traces the development of Clark Field, the biggest US military air base in Asia and the Pacific, from its earliest years to the post-World War II years.

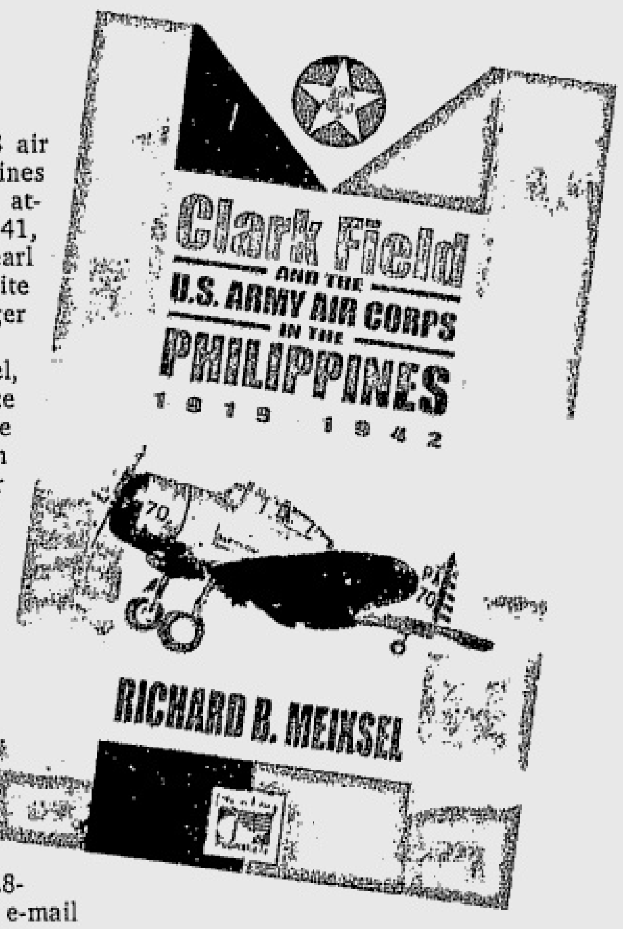
The book focuses on the peace-time garrison life and times of the American pilots and their dependents, along with their interactions with Filipino civilians, particularly of servicemen in their forays into the nearby red-light districts of Angeles City.

The book leads up to a controversy that rivals Pearl Harbor—the near-decimation of the entire US air fleet in the Philippines when the Japanese attacked on Dec. 8, 1941, just a day after the Pearl Harbor bombing, despite the detection of danger signals by radar.

Richard Meixsel, raised on US Air Force bases around the world, finished high school at Clark Air Base in 1973. Following military service, he obtained a doctorate in history from the Ohio State University.

He is an assistant professor at the James Madison University in Virginia where he teaches military, Asian and American history.

Call New Day 928-8046 and 9275982 or e-mail newdayorders@edsamail.com.ph.



Tom Clancy bares his 'Teeth' again

From page F1

is clearly not for you. Clancy remains plugged into the world's anxiety and proves it. When the terrorists strike, it is still shocking and will leave readers cold even if it happens so quickly.

While there is other action in "Teeth," it isn't what you expect. Much of the book is spent by spooks immersed in the undiscovered country of espionage: Cyberspace, tracking down numbers and names amid the anonymous dangers of the real world. It is a much more complicated world order from the one populated by the elder Ryan and Clark. Clancy, for the first time, finally seems comfortable dabbling in that area. With this book, Clancy puts the "techno" back into his arsenal of techno-thrillers.

"Teeth," while a world of improvement over the paperback sleeping pill that was "Red Rabbit," is still fairly unchallenging territory for Clancy. The plot is surprisingly linear with not much by way of either plot twist or revelation. In many ways, it really is business as usual for our best-selling spymaster.

And that, of course, is because Clancy is setting up an entirely new theater of operations. The last paragraph, the very last sentence in fact, announces that "Teeth" is not so much a continuation of the series that began with "The Hunt for Red October," but the start of a brand new operation with new personnel.

As to whether or not loyal Clancy readers will defect from one Jack Ryan to another, it will be up to the next books to determine. So much has changed in just two years, but Clancy has finally faced up to the brave new world without the help of his old buddies. In "The Teeth of the Tiger," Tom Clancy regains some of his lost momentum by deciding to deploy fresh manpower even if the dirty old tricks are all too familiar.

Available in hardcover from National Bookstore and PowerBooks.

New Ateneo book charts post-Marcos policy-making

THE ATENEO de Manila University Press has released "State-Society Dynamics: Policy Making in a Restored Democracy by Jose J. Magadia.

The book looks at democratic policy formulation after the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986. It shows how basic sectors, like agrarian reform, labor and urban poor, made use of the democratic space.

Magadia, a political scientist, points out that while civil society representation greatly expanded, there was uneven participation and interaction among sectors. Moreover, an elitist Congress controlled by traditional politicians posed obstacles.

Magadia, a political scientist, points out that while civil society representation greatly expanded, there was uneven participation and interaction among sectors. Moreover, an elitist Congress controlled by traditional politicians posed obstacles.

Call the Ateneo Press, 4265984; Popular Bookstore, 3722162; Solidaridad 5230870, and PowerBooks 8444455. Visit www.ateneopress.com.

Celebrate the good things in life

IN ITS tradition of setting trends, leading fast-food chain McDonald's continues its commitment to the Filipino people by coming up with yet another family-oriented campaign fittingly dubbed "Love ko 'to!"

McDonald's is known for promoting Filipino values through its inspiring, yet very real, commercials. The "Love ko 'to!" campaign likewise imparts the celebration of life and everything that is dear to one's heart.

" 'Love ko 'to!' is a continuation of our love story with McDonald's for more than two decades," said Leila Hernandez, McDonald's senior vice president for marketing.

This time, McDonald's highlights the family that is the "McDonald's family" where love abounds. It talks about family, things and the people you love, and the goodness of life.

The actual magic moments that happen every day in every outlet involve not only the consumers but the people that make up McDonald's as well.

Employees—or family members—attest how the company made a huge difference in their life. Working with McDonald's not only gives them the prestige of being affiliated with a global conglomerate, but also allows them to grow both personally and professionally. It regularly holds training that gives its people an edge from others.

Working students found themselves staying with McDonald's even after finishing school. The company that supported them as they limped along the thin line of financial stability holds a dear place in their life.

McDonald's family makes it a point to have a good time with sports tournaments, family outings, and get-togethers.

This and many other things make them "love" McDonald's as much as a real family.

This ingenuity and authenticity of human emotions as depicted in its many commercials and campaigns are what make them closer to the Filipinos' hearts.

"It's more than just a campaign," Hernandez said. "It is all about the essence of life." "When we say 'love ko 'to!' it is our moment to realize the definition of a happy time, and a happy life," she continued.

Amid all the bickering and conflicts that hound the country today (or even the world), there are still a lot of things that can help us look at the brighter side of life. It should come within the consciousness of people and the effort to make good things happen, and yes, life is good and you can make it even better.

Emma Camacam
Operations
Rara Naval
Marketing
Hector Jaraza
Human Resources
Bing Bachoco
Accounting
Rhoel Villamora
Field Service
Zonito Torrevillas
PR/Communications
Liezel Miranda
McDonald's Tierra Pura
Ed Hitosis
Business Dev't.
Atty. Emmanuel Mutuc
Legal
Leila Hernandez
Marketing
Berry Tibunsay
Administration/Business Center
Cathie Vito
Marketing
love ko 'to
Josh Delfin
McDonald's PRC
Lani Adante
McDonald's Southmall
Celine Calona
Administration Business Center
Alfredo Tungcab
McDonald's KP Tower
Cynthia Co
Accounting
Eloisa Dayrit
McDonald's Petron South
Lawrence Yance
Marketing
Melon Salazar
Operations
Marc Dizon
Supply Chain
Chona Torre
Human Resources
Roy Quejada
Operations
Dodong Cacanando
Supplier, Moriah Farms
The Design Department
George Hizon
Training Center

with the people of McDo

love ko 'to

ADVT